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EDITORIAL COPY

# THE RYEDALE HISTORIAN

No. 14

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Helmsley and District  
Archaeological Society

*Cover picture :*

*HAROME ~*  
*MEDIEVAL PLOUGHING*

*photograph by Tony Pacitto*

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Cover Photos: Front: Aerial view of Harome from the north.  
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Back: Two studies of Harome earlier this century.  
Copyright by R. H. Hayes.

# Editorial

We offer a deeply grateful salute to Jean Storror who has stepped down as Chairman after a valiant and successful incumbency, and likewise offer a hearty welcome to Professor P. A. Rahtz, now living in Harome, who has generously agreed to take over the responsibility. Our Treasurer, Alan McDonald, also proposes to surrender his coffers this year : our gratitude to him too, for years of painstaking custodianship.

Our last editorial gloated a little too soon that Number Thirteen had not proved unlucky. Despite the quality of its contents, and generous grants from the North York Moors National Park and the Council for British Archaeology, printing costs were such that we had to set a price of £3.50. Local sales outlets found this on the steep side, even for 81 A4 pages of well-presented material. So this time we are intent on reducing costs drastically ; hence the austerity of Number Fourteen, though we trust that there is no loss of real quality.

Several members of the Society have been breaking into print, or at least into typescript, in various scholarly ways. Margaret Smith is busy preparing her thesis on Bronze Age barrows on the Moors (M. Litt., Edinburgh University) for publication as a BAR paper. Raymond Hayes is about to have his detailed study of Old Roads and Pannier Trods in North-East Yorkshire published by the National Park Authority (Old Vicarage, Helmsley, York), and Peter Wilson is busy preparing other items of Raymond's past researches for publication. The Editor himself now boasts the title of Master of Arts of York University on the strength of a dissertation on the early history of Bilsdale ; a short extract, on the Laskill Woolhouse remains, appears in this issue. Another recent publication, to which some of our members contributed titbits of information, is the monumental Houses of the North York Moors researched and published by the Royal Commission on Historic Monuments (England) : thoroughly recommended even if your own house is not mentioned. An equally commendable publication, sponsored by the National Park and edited by two old friends of our Society, Dr. D. A. Spratt and B. J. D. Harrison, is due out in about a year's time : A Landscape History of the North York Moors, to be published by David and Charles. A more imminent publication of interest, from the North Yorkshire County Record Office, is to be the Memorandum Book of Richard Cholmeley of Brandsby, a fascinating insight into the life and times of an impoverished squire in the early seventeenth century.

The National Park Authority has again come to our financial rescue with an increased grant towards the cost of this number, and there is hope of further subsidies from public bodies. In appallingly difficult times for small-scale publications like ours, we acknowledge the help of such organisations with ever livelier appreciation, and hope that readers and subscribers will continue to support us as loyally as they have in the past.

John McDonnell

# Correspondence

## More on Cockmoor Dyke and rabbit warrenning

To the Editor:

In the correspondence with Frank Rimington in your 1986 issue, I proposed to write for the current number a comment on his suggestion that the fourteen small 'dykes' adjacent to the six large ones at Cockmoor may have been lazy beds. I have now talked to several people who are familiar with lazy beds for potato growing, although I have not seen these fields myself. They all concur that the small Cockmoor 'dykes' are unlike any lazy beds they have seen. I fear we must put this idea rather low on the list of possible explanations, even though, as Mr. Rimington points out, this could have been a suitable site for such beds.

I have now finished the first season of a three-year study of the warrens in the Dalby-Cockmoor area, in co-operation with Dr. Alan Harris of Hull University. The following points could be relevant to the idea that the small 'dykes' may have been built by the warreners of the 18th-19th centuries (B.G. Drummond and D. A. Spratt, Ryedale Historian 1984), bearing in mind that they seem to have been constructed between 1707 and 1817.

1. The warrens were invested by very large construction works. There are preserved in the present forests many miles of turf and stone walling as warren and garth boundaries. At least 100 rabbit-types (large stone rabbit traps usually enclosed by walls) had survived to be surveyed on the 1854 Ordnance Survey Maps. As we frequently find rabbit-types not shown on the maps, the number built was probably nearer 200. The 14 small 'dykes' at Cockmoor were therefore well within the practical and economic scope of the warreners.

2. The warreners pressed other dykes into service as boundaries, examples being Ellerburn, Stonygate, Snainton, Allerston Acredyke (medieval), and probably Scamridge. Their depredations were regretted by Knox (1855, quoted in our 1986 correspondence).

3. There are a number of documents surviving which reveal the desperation of farmers whose lands lay adjacent to the warrens, for there was no way in which the rabbits could be confined to the warrens. Cockmoor dykes formed the eastern boundary of the main warrenning terrain, Baker's Warren in Wykeham Forest lying two miles to the north-east. The plight of farmers in the Sawdon area on the east of Cockmoor Dykes could have been severe.

It is therefore in character and within possibility that the warreners built the fourteen small 'dykes' to try to keep the rabbits from the farming land lying to the east. From a study of the warrens, I am more inclined to believe this origin of the small dykes, and less inclined to doubt it, especially as no more likely explanation has emerged, though this does not amount to a definite proof. At the same time we must remember that the hollow-way which emerges from Troutdale into the north centre of the small 'dykes' may have had some influence on their present form.

If any more evidence on this intriguing problem comes to light in the next few years, I shall write again to you. Meanwhile, if any reader has further facts or suggestions, they would be very welcome.

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York.

# The Beacons of North-East Yorkshire

by David Brooke

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Our folk lore of the Spanish Armada owes possibly more to Lord Macaulay than reality, but he reminds us of the tenuous communications of the day and the crucial importance of the fire beacon chain across the land :-

"For swift to east and swift to west the ghastly war flame spread,  
High on St. Michael's Mount it shone; it shone on Beachy Head.  
Far on the deep the Spaniard saw, along each southern shire,  
Cape beyond cape, in endless range, those twinkling points of fire."

The 400th anniversary of the Armada is an opportune time to look at the operation of those 'points of fire,' particularly on the coast and moors of North East Yorkshire.

The starting line for this paper is an examination of large-scale Ordnance Survey sheets by D Smith and D J Brooke in 1980. This revealed over 350 names with a beacon element, to which can be added many other known sites without a 'beacon' name: Scarborough Castle and Roseberry Topping are important local examples. The coastal Roman signal stations and the scant evidence of the Scandinavian occupation (1) should ideally be included too but space demands a concentrated study from Armada to post-Napoleonic times when, almost overnight, beacons were made redundant by the electric telegraph. The paper discusses the operation and organisation of the beacon chain and concludes with a gazetteer of local beacon sites.

## 2. OPERATION AND ORGANISATION

Construction Sneaton Beacon, albeit a modern replacement, has two large timbers rather like telegraph poles, between which is fixed an iron basket - more correctly called a brandreth or cresset: while an accurate copy, it is unusual in having two poles. A good contemporary likeness is shown on a 1605 estate map of Newburgh Priory where 'Hustwood Beacon' is drawn symbolically but clearly as a single pole with timber stays, up which a ladder runs. The cresset is set out from the top. More authoritative descriptions and drawings are provided by Nicholson in 1887 (2). His examination of East Riding beacons, benefiting from conversations with those who remembered them, shows a variety of design based on a pole-stay-cresset construction with ladders formed of cross pieces or chocks.

BURNING. Firewood was always the main combustible, but instructions to the East Riding beacons in the 1580s (3) demanded that "there be provided for every beacon, half a tar barrell" for a dense pall of daytime smoke. Napoleonic times saw similar instructions (4) on the Yorkshire coast, specifying for each beacon "a large stack of Furse or Faggots ...such as may be expected to produce a Fire conspicuous at ten or twelve Miles distant....together with three or four Tar Barrels."

In spite of these detailed instructions, doubts about the effectiveness of the chain in poor weather were sufficient in Napoleonic times to order horsemen called Hobbelars for each beacon who could act as a secondary line of communication. In practice though, there is no record of their being present, nor of any arrangements for extra men or horses.

MANNING. Tudor authorities depended on a civilian rota with the 1580 instructions demanding the services of "the wisest and discretest men...honest householders and above the age of 30 years". Every "daie two persons and everie night three persons" were required on uncomfortable duty in a hut "withoute any setes or place of ease lest they fall aslepe."

In Napoleonic times the Lords Lieutenant of the Ridings proposed that for each beacon "an intelligent steady sergeant and three men should encamp." Evidence from army records (5), which indicates a regular sergeant with civilian watchers, is supported locally by the Danby Parish records where Andrew Middlemase (1803) and Stephen Thompson (1808) are noted as "watchers at the beacon." Permanent shelters eventually replaced tents (the Tudor buildings had evidently decayed), and an itemised account of the North Riding Lieutenantcy details the construction of a stone hut at Stoupe Brow.

CIVIL AND MILITARY ORGANISATION. Responsibility for the beacon chain was confusing in practice and subject to local variation. In Tudor times the power to construct beacons was delegated in the south-west approaches to the Lord High Admiral and elsewhere (including Yorkshire) to the High Sheriff of each County, with evidence suggesting that the Lord Lieutenant and the local Justices had a role too. Flurries of activity can be seen associated with the Dutch Wars of the 1660s, the Jacobite rebellion of 1745 and the American War of Independence in the 1780s. At these times the beacons were maintained (or often not) locally by the Parish Constables under the direction of the Quarter Sessions(6).

However by Napoleonic times the responsibility for establishing, maintaining and operating the beacons was clearly with the Lords Lieutenant, who were subject to military advice and budgetary control through the Quartermaster General's office. For reasons unexplained the North and East Riding Lieutenantcies were alone unable to reclaim their costs from the Exchequer.

READY-STEADY-GO. Once lit, a beacon chain might well rouse the whole nation, so a procedure was vital to alert the watchers but not, initially, to cause them to light their fires. Such a 'ready-steady-go' principle was first recorded locally in the 1580 instructions for the Yorkshire coast. Beacons had three, two or one cressets. On sighting suspicious craft, a key 3-beacon site would light its first fire, thus alerting the neighbouring 2-beacons. When the ships "do geve vehement suspicion," the second of the

# THE BEACONS OF NORTH EAST YORKSHIRE

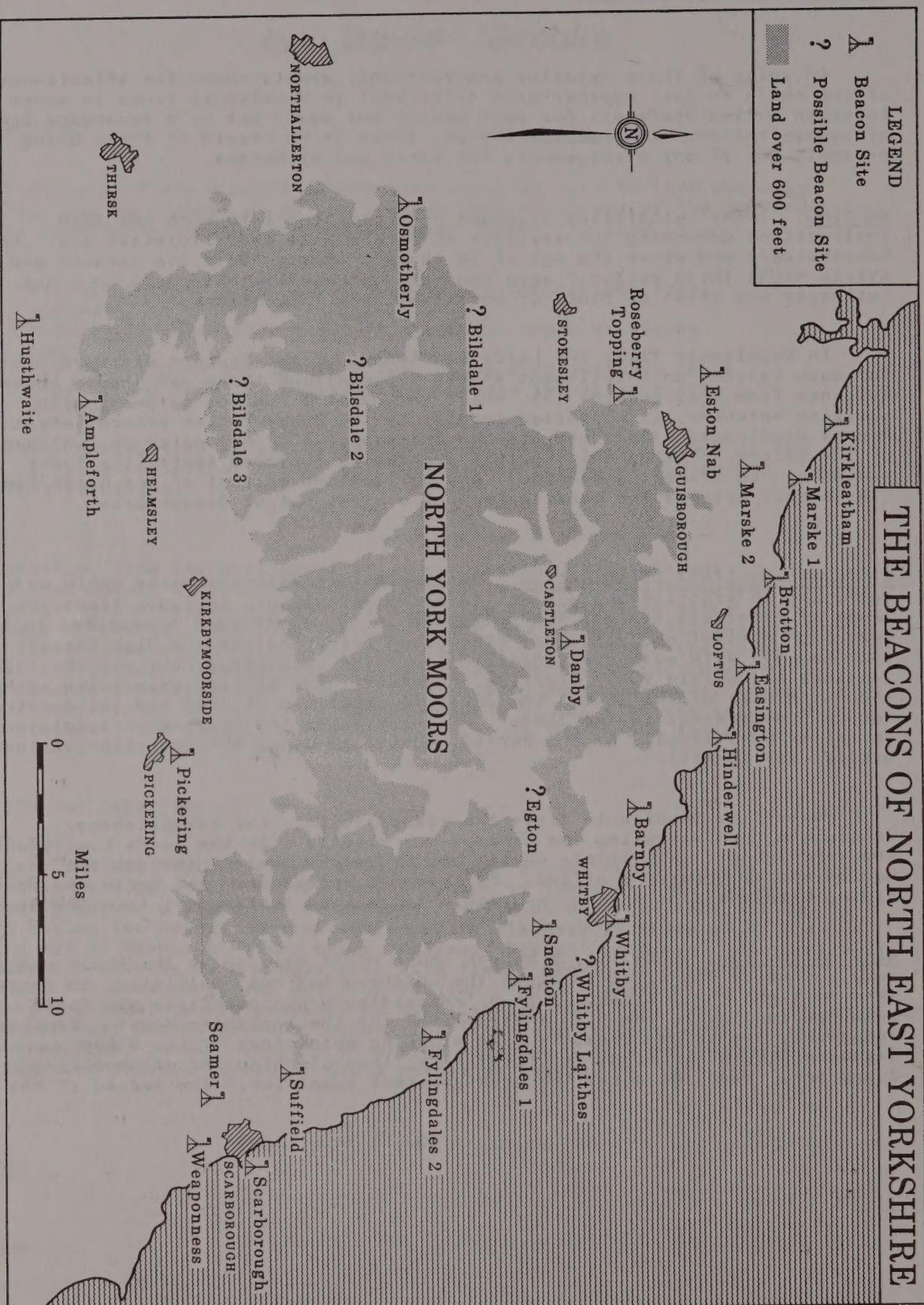


Fig. 1

3-beacons would be lit, causing the first of the 2-beacons to be ignited too. Seeing this, the 1-beacon sites would all come on the alert. When invasion was clear, the third of the 3-beacons would be lit and thus the second of the 2-beacons: the 1-beacons would then spread the message along the chain.

With the beacons aflame, the local populace would know how to respond. (7) In both Tudor and Napoleonic times army and militia detachments would march to the 3-beacon site while the civilians, having destroyed key items like mill-stones and ovens, would retreat inland with chattels and stock.

### 3. A GAZETTEER OF BEACONS IN NORTH EAST YORKSHIRE

#### SCARBOROUGH CASTLE(TA 051892) 3-beacons.

A replica now sits on the castle walls but in 1580 it is described as 'at Charnell adjoining the Castle.' It gave light to Weaponness and Muston. Its position is confirmed by a contemporary mariners' 'plotte' (8) which shows a beacon by the castle. The 1666 and 1747 Quarter Sessions records refer to the maintenance and manning of the chain running through Ryedale from Scarborough. The castle remained a key position in the Napoleonic Wars.

#### WEAPONNESS (TA039869) 1-beacon.

This is a 1-beacon where the system demands a 2-beacon. It gave light to Muston and (confusingly) to Seamer 2-light (1580).

#### SEAMER (TA 008876) 2-beacon.

Seamer Beacon gave light to Pickering, Suffield and Settrington (1580). Saxton records 'Semer Beacon' with a symbol on his county map of 1577, and Norden notes the name in 1621. The remains of Baron Albert's Tower at this point may have some connection with the beacon site.

#### SUFFIELD (SE 992921) 1-beacon.

Suffield or Hackness Beacon (1580) took light from both north and south, thus forming the only link between the coastal and Ryedale chains.

#### PICKERING (SE 793844) 1-beacon.

Pickering Beacon gave light to Settrington and to Ampleforth (1580). Norden notes the name in 1621 and a 'Beacon' and symbol are plotted by Jeffreys on his county map of 1775.

#### AMPLEFORTH (SE 583795) 1-beacon.

Described in 1580 as 'well repaired', Ampleforth Beacon gave light to 'Sumcliffe.' The 1614 Quarter Sessions noted that it was in decay.

#### HUSTHWAITE (SE 531753) 1-beacon.

Also known as Sumcliffe and Hustwood Beacon, Husthwaite gave light to 'Pennell' (Pen Hill in the Pennines) 'Almesscliffe' (Arncliffe - see Osmotherley below) and York (1580). The symbol is noted on a 1605 estate map but in 1625 the Quarter Sessions recorded that the beacon had blown down and ordered it to be repaired by Lammas. In 1672 it was 'fallen down and ruinous.'

## FYLINGDALES (NZ 969001) 3-beacon.

An earlier site at the 'Hooles' near Raw (NZ 936060) was criticised in 1580 because it gave no light southwards 'by reason of great hills and mountains.' The 1580 Certificate recommended that it should be moved to 'Grenedickes' on Stoupe Brow where it could see Suffield. The beacon was certainly at Green Dike in Napoleonic times.

## WHITBY (NZ 898114) 1-beacon.

Whitby Beacon is out of phase with Barnby 2-light. Sitting on the cliffs west of the 'haven' in 1580 it gave light to Smeaton and (confusingly) to Barnby.

## WHITBY LAITHES (NZ 925097)

The Ordnance Survey notes a Beacon Hill here but no records have been found.

## BARNBY (NZ 831137) 2-beacons.

Barnby or Barrebye Beacon gave light to Hinderwell and Danby Beacons (1580). Ogilby noted a 'beacon' and symbol on his 1675 itinerary. The Ordnance Survey notes 'site of Lythe Beacon' on 1st Edition 6" Sheet (1856).

## HINDERWELL (NZ 793178) 2-beacons.

'Hernewell Beacon' gave light to Easington and Danby (1580).

## EASINGTON (NZ 745191) 2-beacons.

Described in 1580 as 'seated upon a hill called Radcliffe' (Rockcliff), Easington Beacon gave light to Brotton and Danby. It was reported in decay in the Quarter Sessions for 1614. A beacon was ordered to be erected at Rowcliff in 1801 but was not established until after 1803.

## BROTTON (NZ 691213) 1-beacon.

Worsett Hill with its Scandinavian Beacon name was known as Brotton or Brampton Beacon in 1580. It was in decay by 1614. It gave light to Marske, Kirkleatham, Eston, Roseberry Topping and Danby. In 1801 a beacon was ordered for Huntcliff. In 1938 local lore still maintained (9) that Bronze Age barrows on the hill were Napoleonic defences.

## MARSKE (NZ 635230?) and (NZ 629202) 2-beacons.

The 2-beacons of 1580 were on two sites separated by about a mile. One was on a 'sea bank' and the other was on Beacon Moor, Upleatham. Were they worked individually or together? They gave light to Kirkleatham, Eston and Roseberry Topping.

## KIRKLEATHAM (NZ 600255?) 1-beacon.

Kirkleatham Beacon, 'seated on a sea bank' in 1580, gave light to Eston.

## SNEATON (NZ 898077) 1-beacon.

Taking light from Whitby, 'Estilsid' (Eskdale) Beacon gave light to Danby. 'It is seated upon a hill called Humberhead' (1580) A replica is erected to the east of the village.

## EGTON (NZ 814067?)

Two fragments of evidence point to a beacon in the Egton area. Ordnance

Survey records refer to (but do not substantiate) the site of a beacon at this grid reference and Harland (10) writes of working in 'Beacon Field' on Egton Banks.

#### DANBY (NZ 736093) 1-beacon

In 1580 this beacon warned Danby Forest but it gave 'no light southwards for hills and dales'. It was intervisible with Roseberry Topping. The present pole is modern and the wooden 'pitch box', which appears on a 1902 photograph, a bit of a puzzle. Local memories can hark back to a shorter pole with an iron cresset. There is clear evidence for Napoleonic use.

#### ESTON NAB (NZ 568183) 1-beacon.

Taking light from the coast, Eston gave light in 1580 to Ornsbury (Roseberry) Topping and into 'Bushabrigg' (the Bishopric of Durham). A beacon was ordered in 1801. A substantial stone watch tower was built at about that time but its later use as a house ended in the 1950s when it was demolished and replaced with an obelisk.

#### ROSEBERRY TOPPING (NZ 578126) 1-beacon.

The prominent point of Oseburye or Ornsbury Topping was in use in 1580, giving light to Danby, Arncliffe, much of Langbargh, Allertonshire, much of Richmondshire, to the 'top of Staine Moor', and into the Bishopric. A beacon was ordered in 1801, but parish records show that 'fixing a pole upon Roseberry for Beacon' was not carried out until 1807-8.

#### OSMOTHERLEY (SE 460997) 1-beacon.

Known as Osmotherley Hill or Arncliffe in 1580, this was the only beacon in Allertonshire and was described as in good repair. It had wide visibility but gave light particularly to Pen Hill. A beacon was ordered for 'Hambleton End' in 1801.

#### BILSDALE

Place names suggest a chain of three beacons running along Bilsdale but other evidence is not forthcoming. In the north Cringle Moor has a stone marked 'Beacon Stoop' (NZ 535033) on the Ordnance Survey 1st Edition 6" in 1857, which is clearly visible from several Cleveland beacons. The next point south is Beacon Guest Crag (and farm) (SE 553962). Then surther south a square socketed stone is known locally as Beacon Stone. It lies by the side of the B1257 road (SE 564892); trees now cover the horizon but the map contours suggest that Ampleforth beacon might just be visible.

#### OTHER 'BEACONS'

No historical evidence exists for a Beacon at Limekiln House above Kepwick, where a bonfire was lit in honour of Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee in 1887, nor Roulston Scar, used as part of the Beacon chain to celebrate the Silver Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II in 1977. Equally misleading is a claim of Sewell (11) for a beacon at Cock Heads.

#### 4. FURTHER WORK

This paper has been written from a desk and map study, started in Ryedale but completed in Gloucestershire far from primary sources. Many questions thus remain and further facts await discovery, some doubtless from basic fieldwork. However, these notes are a starting point and can serve as a reminder of those days when a chain of fire linking hill-top with hill-top was the swiftest (12) and surest way of alerting an expectant country to the danger of invasion.

REFERENCES.

1. Scandinavian evidence is limited to a single place name : Warsett Hill, Brotton. (war-saeter: beacon summer farm).
2. Nicholson J. Old Yorkshire, Hull, 1887.
3. References to the Certificate and instructions of circa 1580 are mostly taken from Nicholson, *ibid*.
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9. Hornsby W and Stanton R. 'British barrows near Brotton.' YAJ Vol. XXIV 1938.
10. Harland G. Queen of the Dales. Whitby Lit. and Phil. Soc. 1970.
11. Sewell JT. Medieval roads crossing the moors. Whitby Lit. and Phil. Soc., 1923.
12. The Times for 7th October 1803 reported that a practice message was sent from Spurn Point to Whitby in eleven minutes.

I am very grateful to Bob Monks of Cheltenham for drawing the map.

# Medieval Forests in North-East Yorkshire

by David Counsell, M.Sc., Dip.T.P., M.R.T.P.I.

Little has been written on the subject of forests in Yorkshire despite the fact that at their greatest extent in the 13th century much of the North-East part of the county was subject to forest laws. Together the Royal Forests of Pickering, Galtres, Ouse and Derwent, and Spaunton (Farndale) (1), and the private forest of the Abbot of Whitby, extended from the coast to the River Dove and from the Esk to the walls of York. To the north were the private forests of Danby and Westerdale (Baysdale).

These forests were not areas of continuous woodland, as is currently understood by the term, but were administrative areas subject to special laws, the main objective of which was to protect game. In addition to woods as such, the forests contained extensive tracts of waste (moor, marsh and rough pasture) and also cultivated land. Some of this land formed part of the Lord of the Forest's Demesne whilst other tracts were privately owned but nevertheless subject to the forest laws which prevented the owners from taking venison and, in some cases, even timber.

Records of Pickering Forest, published by the North Riding Records Society in the 1890's (2) provide a comprehensive account of the management of land and game in a Royal Forest covering the period from 13th to 17th century. Of particular interest are the records of woodland management which allow a detailed construction to be made of the composition and exploitation of the medieval woodlands. These records form the basic source of information for this paper.

## FOREST ADMINISTRATION

As the legal status of land and the customs within and between forests differed, it is difficult to generalise about their administration. However, some brief explanation is necessary to the understanding of what is to follow.

Pickering Forest was part of the extensive grants of land made by Henry III to his son Edmund in 1267. As these grants also included the House, County and Town of Lancaster, he became Earl of Lancaster. The Duchy of Lancaster lands were (and are) part of the Royal Estate but kept separate from the other Crown lands. Pickering Forest had two wards, East and West, the former at one time being the separate Scalby Forest.

The Forests of Galtres and Ouse and Derwent were Royal Forests, as was Spaunton or Farndale, but custody of the latter, which occupied the land between the Rivers Seven and Dove was given to the Abbot of St. Mary's at York by Henry II. Whilst the Abbot owned the land however, the game still belonged to the King. By a grant of Henry I the Abbot also received a tithe of venison throughout the County of York including Galtres. (3) Whitby was a totally private forest and the Abbot of Whitby owned both the land and game.

## GLOSSARY (AFTER OLIVER RACKHAM)

|                            |   |
|----------------------------|---|
| <u>Assart:</u>             | private farm land formed out of part of a wood.   |
| <u>Bolling (Bole):</u>     | permanent trunk of a pollard  |
| <u>Bote:</u>               | right of particular tenants to receive wood or timber   |
| <u>Browswood:</u>          | leaf-fodder (or bark)   |
| <u>Brushwood:</u>          | tops of felled underwood.   |
| <u>Coppice (Copse):</u>    | underwood trees which are cut close to the ground every few years and grow again from the <u>stool</u> .                  |
| <u>Dottart, Dotterell:</u> | standard tree in an advanced state of decay having only part of the trunk remaining.                                      |
| <u>Hagg:</u>               | local name for coppice.   |
| <u>Lopping:</u>            | cutting branches off a tree.  |
| <u>Mast:</u>               | tree seeds, especially acorns.  |
| <u>Pannage:</u>            | fattening of domestic pigs on mast.   |
| <u>Park:</u>               | enclosed area intended for keeping deer.  |
| <u>Parker:</u>             | manager of park.  |
| <u>Pollard:</u>            | tree which is cut at 8-12ft. above ground and allowed to grow again from the bolling to produce successive crops of wood. |
| <u>Shedding:</u>           | a kind of pollarding involving removal of branches first from one side then from the other side of the tree.              |
| <u>Spinney:</u>            | a wood which consists of thorns.  |
| <u>Spring:</u>             | regrowth from stool of felled tree or coppice.  |
| <u>Standard:</u>           | (Standell) a tree suitable for timber.  |
| <u>Stool:</u>              | permanent base of a coppice tree.   |
| <u>Stub:</u>               | tree intermittent between a stool and a pollard.  |
| <u>Timber:</u>             | trunk of tree of greater than a certain diameter, suitable for beams or for sawing into planks.                           |
| <u>Underwood:</u>          | wood whether growing or cut consisting of coppice poles, young suckers or pollard poles.                                  |
| <u>Vert:</u>               | legal term for vegetation.  |
| <u>Wood:</u>               | poles and branches of a tree of smaller diameter than timber.   |

## Forests in North-East Yorkshire

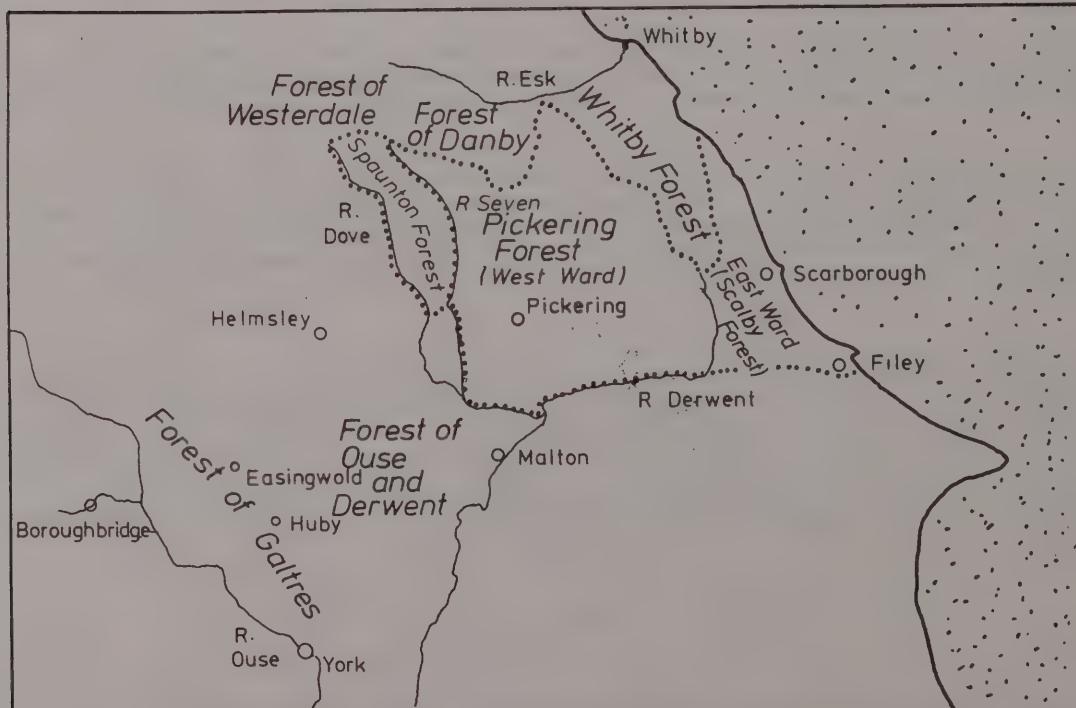


Fig. 2

The senior forest official was known as the Keeper, and in the case of Pickering this post was held by the Constable of Pickering Castle, whilst the Abbot of St. Mary's was the Keeper of Spaunton Forest. Under the Keepers were foresters-in-fee who themselves employed foresters to undertake practical duties. Verderers were employed to look after the growing wood, and also kept the rolls of the forest courts. Pasturing of stock in the forests was supervised by agisters.

The main forest court was the Eyre at which the officials had to make their reports and account for the game and timber taken from the forest. Offences against the forest laws were also tried at the Eyre and one famous session lasted in Pickering from 1334 to 1338 when hundreds of cases were considered, some going back to the previous century. The most serious offences were those of venison (poaching deer) and vert (cutting or being in possession of green wood).

#### GAME MANAGEMENT

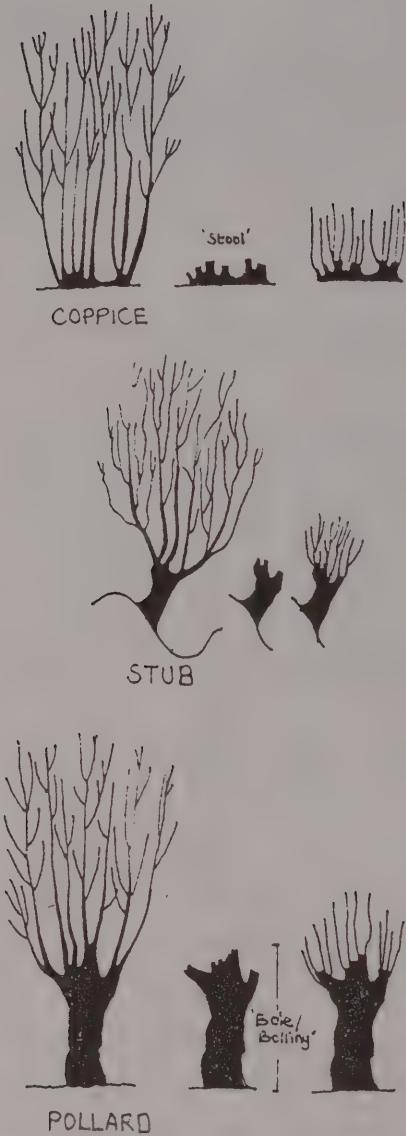
The medieval forests were protected firstly and foremost as game preserves. The King's game, which came under the common title of venison, was the Red Deer, Roe Deer, Fallow Deer and Wild Boar.

Red Deer and Roe Deer are both indigenous to this country and would naturally inhabit the woodlands and moors. Fallow Deer on the other hand were probably introduced by the Normans and were usually kept as parkland animals. Fallow Deer were kept at Blansby Park, north of Pickering and some probably escaped into the wider forest. Reference to all three species of deer occur in the records of Pickering Forest, although the Red and Fallow were the most prized and were given different names depending on age and sex.(4).

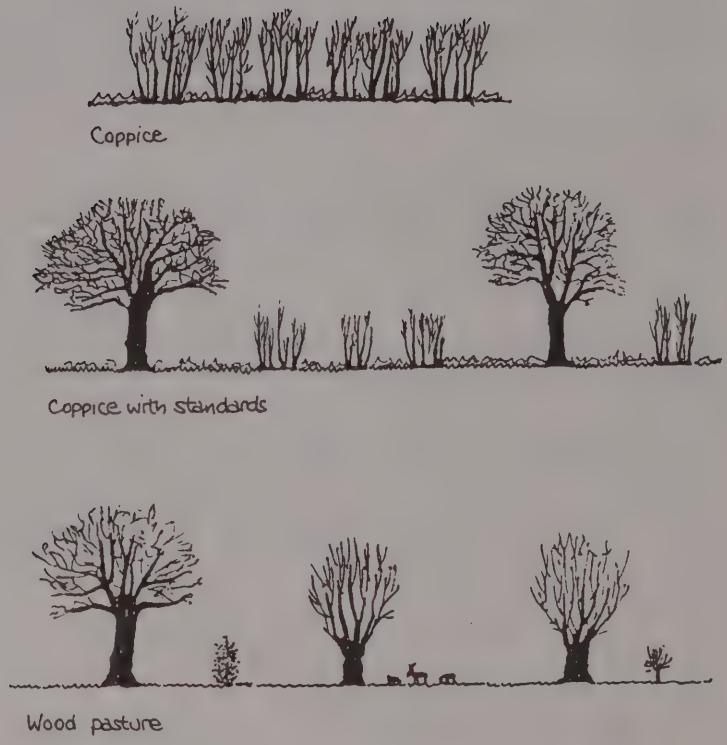
| YEAR | RED DEER              |           | FALLOW DEER           |      |
|------|-----------------------|-----------|-----------------------|------|
|      | HART                  | HIND      | BUCK                  | DOE  |
| 1    | calf                  | hind calf | fawn                  | fawn |
| 2    | knobler or<br>brocket | hearse    | pricket               | leg  |
| 3    | spayard               | hyrsel    | sorrel                | doe  |
| 4    | staggart              | hind      | soar/sowre            | doe  |
| 5    | stag                  | hind      | buck of 1st<br>head   | doe  |
| 6    | hart of 1st<br>head   | hind      | buck of great<br>head | doe  |
| 7    | hart of<br>great head | hind      | buck of great<br>head | doe  |

The Roe Deer is mentioned less frequently and there is one instance when its status as a beast of the forest was successfully challenged. In 1334 Henry de Percy claimed to have free warren in the Manor of Seamer which allowed him to take foxes, hares, wild cats, badgers and Roe Deer. His claim was eventually upheld on the grounds that Roe Deer "...fly from other beasts of the warren".(5)

The Wild Boar shared the title of the King's game with deer and during the first two centuries of Norman rule both Pickering and Galtres were famous for Wild Boar. In 1214 "Peter Fitzherbert, Constable of Pickering was ordered by King John to give all assistance to Edward, Royal Huntsman, who was coming to kill Wild Boar and to see that the meat was well salted and in good custody".(6) One of the last references to Wild Boar is in 1231 when the King sent his royal huntsman to procure 30 boars and 50 hinds in the Forests of Pickering and Galtres.(7)



WAYS OF MANAGING TREES FOR WOOD



MAIN WOODLAND TYPES, PICKERING

(after Oliver Rackham 1976)

Fig. 3

The management of the Royal Forests was directed more towards the provision of food for the Court than direct sport for the King. Most deer culling was in fact undertaken by professional huntsmen, with the venison being salted and dispatched to Court. However at least one King, Edward II, did apparently himself hunt in Pickering as the following is included in the Forest accounts for 1323.

"...John son of Ibote of Pickering, who followed the King a whole day when he hunted the stag in Pickering Chase - gift by order 10s."

The forest also provided food for the local monasteries and the tithe of venison enjoyed by St. Mary's Abbey was an important asset. The tithe of venison in Galtres was withdrawn by Edward III (8) because of over-hunting and instead the Abbot was given the game in his own forest of Spaunton for a period of five years. This arrangement was not satisfactory as very little game was available in Spaunton, and the Abbot petitioned unsuccessfully for either the return of the tithe in Galtres or the game in Spaunton on a permanent basis.

Many regulations existed to protect the deer; the 15-day periods before and after Midsummer Day for example were known as the 'fence month' when the deer were fawning. It was an offence for anyone to be found walking in the forest during this period. Also it was an offence to keep large dogs within the forest unless they had been disabled (referred to as lawed or expeditated) by having part of their forefeet removed.

Many of the local gentry openly flouted the forest laws, none more so than the Mauley family who were Lords of the Egton Estates which abutted Pickering Forest. In 1334 Peter de Mauley and others took no fewer than 43 harts and hinds at Blakey Moor. They cut off the heads of 9 beasts and fixed them to stakes on the moor as a sign of their contempt for the law. Other frequent poachers in the Royal Forests were the monks from the surrounding abbeys and some 14th century examples follow from Pickering Eyres.(9)

"William Duck, forester of the Abbot of Rievaulx is a confirmed poacher and companion of poachers and dwells at Nohow."

"Richard Moyn of Rosedale, on behalf of the Abbot of St. Mary's, William Trotan of Spaunton, Roger Milne of Farndale, Robert son of Peter, William Backhouse and Ralph Head, all of the same place, on a Monday in January killed a soar and slew a hart with bows and arrows in an unknown place within the forest. All were outlawed."

The Foresters and Park Keepers were required to hang up all deer found dead to pass inspection. They were frequently said to have died of the murrain, which expression was used to cover all ills. The officials were frequently themselves fined for not being able to account for all deer taken

#### TREES AND WOODLANDS

As previously mentioned, the medieval forests were never continuously wooded. Woodland clearance and exploitation which had begun as early as Mesolithic times had resulted in a landscape of moorland, marsh, cultivated land and pasture, in addition to the remnants of ancient woods by the time of the Norman Conquest. However, the management of these remaining woods did constitute an important aspect of the forest administration and the detailed records of Pickering provide a fascinating insight into the intensive use of woodlands during the Middle Ages.

It is not possible to accurately describe the distribution of woods in the forests although an approximation can be made using woodland references and the location of remaining woodland on the early Ordnance Survey Plans. This suggests that woodland was more or less continuous in some of the river valleys including Newtondale, Rosedale and Farndale and possibly also on the scarpface. Elsewhere woodland cover was sporadic although all of the villages and townships did have access to woods.(10)

The dominant tree in the Medieval woodland was the Oak, favoured in management because of the durability of its timber. An analysis of all named occurrences of trees in the Pickering records illustrates the dominance of Oak which accounts for 85% of references. The complete analysis is given in figure 1.

Figure 1 : Frequency of Tree Species referred to in Forest of Pickering Records

|                         | <u>Number</u> | <u>Percentage</u> |
|-------------------------|---------------|-------------------|
| Oak                     | 386           | 85.0              |
| Thorn (mostly Hawthorn) | 23            | 5.1               |
| Alder                   | 15            | 3.3               |
| Ash                     | 10            | 2.2               |
| Holly                   | 10            | 2.2               |
| Birch                   | 2             | 0.4               |
| Willow                  | 2             | 0.4               |
| Lime                    | 2             | 0.4               |
| Elm                     | 1             | 0.2               |
| Maple                   | 1             | 0.2               |
| Rowan                   | 1             | 0.2               |
| Beech*                  | 1             | 0.2               |
| <br>TOTAL               | <br>454       | <br>100.0         |

\*dubious indirect reference in an inquiry.

It appears that the typical medieval woodland consisted of Oak trees with the occasional Ash sharing the canopy. William Marshall (11) writing at the end of the 18th century similarly described woodlands in the Vale of Pickering to be predominantly Oak with a small quantity of Ash. Alders with a few Willows occupied the damper parts and sometimes formed woods referred to as Carrs. The understorey of the woods included species such as hazel, holly and thorns.

In a period when wood formed the major raw material for everyday life, management of woods was a skilled task which commanded its own vocabulary. A description of the terms which occur in this paper is appended for the benefit of anyone unfamiliar with them.

Woodlands were managed according to two main systems : coppice and wood pasture. In the former, growth was cut on a regular cycle to provide a continuous supply of small wood for everyday use. Most coppice woods had to be fenced for at least part of the cycle to protect the young growth from grazing animals. Wood pasture, on the other hand, was a management system directed towards obtaining wood and timber from woodland which was regularly grazed by animals and where fencing was not allowed.

## Coppice Woods

The most comprehensive records of coppice woods are those with the demesne lands of Pickering but similar woods would have existed in the vicinity of most towns and villages. These woods were known locally as Hags and a survey of Pickering Forest undertaken in 1608 describes them as follows:(12)

|                   |                                  |
|-------------------|----------------------------------|
| Langhouedale      | 20 acres with 150 dottards       |
| Kings Hagg        | 20 acres containing 160 dottards |
| Feather Hagg      | 10 acres no dottards             |
| Rara Hagg         | 8 acres no dottards              |
| Risa Hagg         | ---                              |
| Greengate Hagg    | 4 acres, 100 dottards            |
| Braygate Hagg     | 16 acres, 400 dottards           |
| Gundale Hagg      | 16 acres, 50 dottards            |
| Haugh (gate) Hagg | 16 acres, 450 dottards           |
| Old Hagg          | 20 acres, no dottards            |
| Parr Hagg         | 30 acres no standards            |
| Little Park Hagg  | 8 acres no standards             |

A dottard is an ageing standard tree, and where these are mentioned the management regime would allow a number of trees to grow over several cycles of coppice cutting to provide structural timber. This system is known as coppice with standards. It was the custom (17th century) for hagg woods to be cut on a 14-year cycle, and after felling they were fenced for the first seven years to protect the spring (new growth) from grazing animals.(13)

Frequent references occur of townships allowing fences around hagg woods to fall into disrepair and the spring being damaged by grazing. Tenants were in fact resentful about the temporary loss of pasture and in some cases intentionally removed fences. Coppice now provides very little wood in the area formerly covered by the forests. However, the practice did continue to the end of the 18th century when William Marshall (14) described a very similar method of woodland management.

## Wood Pasture

The remaining woods not managed as coppice were left open to be grazed by deer and domestic stock. The majority of trees in wood pasture were managed either as standards or pollards, usually with a poorly developed understorey. In Blansby Park for example in 1651 the timber trees comprising saplings, pollards and old dotterells numbered 283.

Unlike coppice woods, in wood pasture fencing was not allowed as this would restrict free movement of the deer. The cutting and use of wood and timber was carefully prescribed and unless there was some special custom or grant, no tree could be felled except under the control of the forest officials.

The tenants of the demesne lands had certain rights in demesne woods, including 'green and dead wood for housebote (to be delivered by the foresters), dry wood for burning without delivery, and in other woods except Blansby and Dalby, hedgebote, housebote, ploughbote and fencing around the common fields under the eye and hand of the foresters, and dry wood lying on the ground as well as dry wood they could pull down by crooks.'(15)

All rights related to dead wood or green wood delivered by the foresters. It was an offence (vert) to cut wood ; to be in the possession of green wood other than that delivered, or to sell or remove wood from the forest.

Needless to say many people exceeded their rights and were indicted for the offence of vert including senior forest officials and neighbouring monasteries.

For example the Prior of Malton was fined £5 when he:

"took green hue of thorn and hazels in Allantofts within the demesne value £1, and carried it to Scarborough for kippering his herrings...." (16)

One of the more persistent offenders was John Gilpin who was indicted on numerous occasions for taking oaks for waggon shafts; ash for bowls and dishes; elder (alder) sold to build a house etc. (17)

Numerous townships were also indicted for allowing woods to fall into decay including 'Hartoft wood which was wasted of old and has lately been despoiled of Oak to the value of 15s by the townships of Hartoft, Middleton, Aislaby, Wrelton, Cropton and Cawthorn to which it is appurtenant....'(18)

The value of individual trees varied according to the size of tree and the date of offence. In the 14th century the value of oaks ranged from  $\frac{1}{2}$ d for a sapling to 8d for a large timber tree. By 16th century prices had risen to 2d for a scrub oak, 12d for an oak, and 7d for an ash, whilst in the 17th century there is reference to a tree ~~work~~ 3s 4d. Underwood was valued at between 4s and 8s an acre in the 15th century and at about £1 an acre in the 17th.

When reading the endless lists of people indicted for vert and of the huge loads of timber legally removed from the forests it is at first sight surprising that any woodland survived the Middle Ages. Certainly the many Elizabethan inquisitions support this view, decrying the wholesale destruction of timber trees. However, the forest records probably overemphasise the destructive aspects and overlook the fact that woodlands will regenerate naturally. Certainly many woods did survive the medieval depredations, particularly in remote and inaccessible places. During the 16th century the low value of many woods was ascribed to the fact 'that they stand far from towns and grow in such crags and dales that their timber cannot easily be obtained'.(19)

#### Rights and Customs

Apart from those already described, ~~on~~ of the most important rights in the forest was that of pasture. Commoners were allowed to pasture animals in the forests for payment of a small fee collected by the agisters. The main exception to this right applied to goats, which were banned as they tainted the pasture for deer. Tenants of the demesne lands for example enjoyed rights to pasture all animals except goats in all woods other than Blansby Park and Dalby Hay. (20)

About Michaelmas (29th September) each year the agisters organised a forest drive when unagisted cattle were seized. A fine equal to the value of the animals then had to be paid to reclaim them. Examples of fines from the Eyre in 1334 are:

John Gilbert, 1 pig worth 2s.  
Prior of Malton, 7 young horses worth £1.4s.0d.  
Abbot of Whitby, 7 sheep at 1s each and 2 cattle at 8s.  
Rector of Lastingham, 6 oxen and 2 cows ~~woth~~ £1.10s.

The period between 14th September and 18th November was the mast season when pigs were pastured on fallen ~~acrons~~. This was known as pannage and each commoner had to notify the agisters how many pigs he intended to turn loose. The pannage charge in 14th century was 1d for a pig and  $\frac{1}{2}$ d for a young pig (under one year).

The system gradually disappeared during the Tudor period as the enclosure

of land progressed and grazing licences were let. Even during the 17th century however, there is a reference to unbranded cattle being collected by officers of the forest.

Other common rights included picking nuts, collecting honey, cutting turves (turbary), cutting reeds for thatch etc. Most of these activities brought in a revenue to the Duchy in licence fees as can be seen from the accounts. (21)

"fines for cattle agisted at Blansby Park £11.4s.8d, and no more because Thomas Ughtred forbade the agistment of cart horses whilst the King's mares were there.....

Sale of 36 cartloads of old brushwood, 4d per cartload, 12s; nothing for honey, wax, nuts, horseburden ; cartload of old brushwood, wood for hedging, cattle and sheep agisted in Dalby, 6s.10d; nothing for stubble turves and heather in Watmere ; licences to fish in the Derwent, 14s; drywood, charcoal, felled branches, fodder and licences for fowling - nothing; Lime trees at Lyndrick, nothing; 4 bushalls, 1 stone of nuts collected by persons not having common rights entitling them to collect nuts, 1s 9 $\frac{1}{4}$ d; licences to collect nuts, 1s 2d."

#### Enclosures and Decline of Forests

Enclosures existed within the forest from the earliest times. These were normally given as grants by the Crown for payment of an appropriate rent. Illegal enclosures (assarts) also were frequently made, and were an offence against the forest laws although many were tolerated in return for payment.

One of the earliest enclosures referred to in the Pickering records was at Goathland, where in 1100 Henry I granted charters to two brothers of Goathland Hermitage.

This enclosure was later acquired by the Abbot of Whitby and was the cause of some controversy during the 14th century, when several accusations were made by the foresters about overstocking. The Abbot presented his charter allowing unlimited pasture. Shortly afterwards the foresters tried to convict him again but this time the Abbot refused to travel to Pickering and the Eyre was held on Abbey land at Hackness. He was again acquitted of the charge.(22) St. Mary's Abbey was not as fortunate when it made an enclosure of 80 acres of meadow in the 1240s in Normanby Marshes. 'It was not sown but mown 40 times at 1s an acre, total value £176.' The Abbey was held responsible for this act and the land forfeited.(23)

The pace of enclosure increased towards Tudor times and at the same time the objectives of forest management began to change. The importance of game conservation gradually gave way to that of maximising income from leases, licences etc. The forests were in fact evolving from medieval game reserves into estates in the modern sense where income is derived from rents. This evolution was assisted by the dissolution of the monasteries in the 16th century. As more land was enclosed and tamed and grazing rights let, the deers' habitat declined and so not unnaturally did the number of deer. Concern was expressed throughout the Tudor period about the decline in numbers of deer and various counts were undertaken. In 1503 there were estimated to be only 200 red deer in the forest and in 1591 a ban on hunting was proposed because the stock was greatly diminished. Banning hunting could however, only have a minor effect ; the real reason for the decline in deer was loss of habitat and competition for pasture. By the 17th century deer were few in number and red deer probably became locally extinct at this time.

I have now outlined the gradual taming and colonization of forests in North East Yorkshire. In the 11th century, although managed to an extent the forests still contained wild places inhabited by deer, wild boar and even wolves. Man's influence increased through the Middle Ages when the forests were managed as game preserves and as a resource of wood and timber. This management and exploitation led to the extinction of wolves and wild boars and to a reduction in woodland. By Tudor times the forests were a patchwork of woodlands, enclosed land and moor, and the trend towards enclosures, reclamation and agricultural improvement continued until the present century. Now much of the area is again wooded, but instead of native woodland trees these new forests consist predominantly of alien conifers. The valley-side broadleaved woods have been greatly reduced, but those which remain are a legacy of the medieval forest and as such must be conserved for historical as well as ecological reasons.

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# Harome : the history of a village

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## Summary

In presenting this study we have sought to assemble and interpret material available on Harome, but the problems raised by the repeated appearance of the two manors from Domesday onwards has entailed a splitting of the narrative for the medieval period to discuss their provenance and development. The early history of Harome, the Haw, the 1637 Survey and the Mills have been looked at in some detail. Other aspects such as Harome's recent history or the intriguing areas of Rye House and Aby Green await further investigation.

We would like to express our grateful thanks to John Rushton, G.O. Fox, (now deceased) and Barry Harrison for permission to print their unpublished source material. The Inquisitions Post Mortem were verified where possible. John Rushton also offered his usual critical help.

The map is based on R. H. Hayes' local knowledge, the 6" O. S. map, and Duncombe Park Estate Map (NYCRO).

## Introduction

The village of Harome stands at the tip of a belt of boulder clay ; this belt extends from Harome Heads at 200 feet to a point just north of the Green Lane. The settlement lies on sand and gravel at 125 feet with the little river Riccal to the west. The river Rye is not more than a mile distant. There is a wide main street to the village that runs East-West. It has the appearance of some planning in the layout and arrangement of tofts, with two back lanes that bound the village garths. The oldest part of the village was probably centred around the Hall or Manor House and it is doubtful if this was ever planned at the outset. The oldest maps confirm this view. It has been said that the chapel was of the Norman period.

Much rigg and furrow is still visible in the old common field area. At Harome Heads and Shaw Moor to the north were wooded commons, containing substantial oaks, before the enclosures of the 18th century. Farming has always been the main occupation although by the 13th century weaving was present and continued until the 18th century.

The origin of the name Harome has been the subject of controversy. Smith (1) and Ekwall (2) give the meaning as "amongst the stones" in Old English but there are no stones found at Harome, only gravel below the subsoil. The older spellings given in the Domesday Book 1088 are Harun, Harum or Harem. 'Har' could mean a rock, a tumulus or heap of stones. Tumuli, meaning burial mounds, did exist until recently near the village.

## Pre-history

Several prehistoric stone and flint implements have been found in the vicinity. An exceptionally fine example of a neolithic-type polished axe of basalt used to be kept in the schoolhouse.

The ridge of land running SE from Helmsley and east of the Rye has remains of tumuli at intervals although many are now ploughed down. They may be of Bronze Age date. On the series of low ridges between the Rye and the Riccal beck were the remains of at least ten burial mounds. A group are situated on the little hill just west of the old railway bridge at the junction of the Helmsley-Harome roads.



### Roman Harome

Tradition tells of a Roman road over Harome Heads turning towards Beadlam where a remarkable piece of hollow-way remained until 1970 ; all the rigg and furrow is aligned on it. The late George Bumby, who lived to the age of 100, thought it came from Hovingham and ran up on to Beadlam-Skiplam rigg to the iron workings near Mitchell Hagg or Ankness. Close to the Haw earthwork is a cambered cobbled road also said to be Roman but most likely connected with the medieval earthworks. Traces of another road were found in a field SE of the village. Two Roman-British hand mills or querns have been found near Harome, one from the Haw (see Haw section) and the other from Cross farm north of the Star Inn. It seems quite likely that Roman or pre-Roman farms existed on the site of the village. A Roman villa at Riccal bridge west of Beadlam has been excavated.

### Domesday Survey

The first documentary evidence for Harome comes from the Domesday survey of 1086 (3). There had been three separate holdings in the pre-Conquest. Ughtred had a manor and five carucates of land ; Sortcol had a manor and 1½ carucates, while Torbrand had two oxgangs (see Table A). Eight oxgangs make one carucate. After the Norman Conquest the holding of Ughtred went to Robert, Count of Mortain , Sortcol's to the King and Torbrand's to Berenger de Todeni.

In the summary four holdings were given "In Harun, the Count of Mortain 5 carucates. In the same place the King 1½ carucates. Berengar de Todeni 2 oxgangs and Hugh son of Baldric 1 carucate." Hugh son of Baldric had been granted the berewick of Kirkbymoorside, which included land at Harome.

By the end of the 11th century the Count of Mortain had been attainted for treason and his lands in Harome and Helmsley granted to Walter Espec, whose descendants were the family called de Ros.

### The De Harums : Charters and Inquests

The leading resident family of Harome in the early middle ages was called de Harum. We see them through the rare surviving documents that describe their involvement in the area. Some of these documents tell us of the land transactions they were party to, the taxes and debts they had to pay (or failed to pay! ), and their role as witnesses in local charters.

The earliest charters of the 12th and 13th centuries refer to the granting of lands and houses in Harome, and reveal something of the medieval scene. In 1170 William de Harum reconfirms to Rievaulx Abbey the meadow called Goselynenge (Gosling Ing) near the ditch of Nonningtonker, "which they had of the gift of my ancestors. They may enclose the meadow with ditch and hedge. My beasts and those of my men of Harome may enter the said meadow after the hay is carried off and have common of herbage until the same meadow, with the other meadows of the vill is placed in defence in March, as is the custom." (4). Here is an early instance of enclosure, with perhaps a still richly varied hedgerow, near the boundary ditch of Nunnington Carr. William ensured the village's grazing rights in the meadow, starting with the eating of the aftermath or fog probably in August until the new season's growth begins in March. This reminds us that we follow the same grazing pattern today, and that farming practices are one of our oldest links with the past.

The charter also shows that the Cistercian Abbey of Rievaulx from its earliest beginnings did not cut itself off from all associations with the laity, but co-operated with it in sound husbandry.

Several of the grants were to Kirkham Priory, who held the church of Helmsley, which was also the parish church for Harome. In one of these charters the nuns of Handale, near Loftus, describe their holding as being near that of Lord William de Harum, a reference to their manor lord (5). The nuns had common grazing rights not only for cattle, one horse and sheep, but also for pigs with their young up to three months, a very late weaning by today's standards.

the family seal of the de Harums. It shows a hare running. This renews speculation about the origin of the village name, closely resembling as it does the Domesday spelling of Harun. Had the sense of the original meaning (perhaps OE Har 'stones') already been lost and 12th century Harome was trying to make sense of the name, as we are still doing today?

At the end of the 13th century two documents establish that the baronial family of de Ros of Helmsley is the overlord of Harome. In Kirkby's Inquest of 1285 ((6)) Harome is described as having 4 carucates to tax, in the fee of de Ros under William de Harum. Then on the death of Robert de Ros of Helmsley in 1285 an Inquisition Post Mortem was made, listing as one of his holdings the manor of Harum and its tenants.

The close association of Helmsley and Harome is further evident in a record of 1206-10 in which Drogo de Harum is described as steward to Robert de Ros II. Drogo was witnessing a land grant of de Ros. In this early period the de Harums frequently acted as witnesses for the de Ros family in their land transactions.

A curious record of 1301 states that the bailiff is ordered to seize the body of Sir William de Harum, knight, and keep him until the Prior and Convent of Kirkham have been paid 100 marks due to them on a cognovit (7).

In the 1301 Lay Subsidy (8, see Appendix A) William de Harum appears as dominus or lord and as chief tax-payer of the vill. There are also half a dozen well-to-do farmers, a blacksmith and a fuller. One unusual name also included on the tax list for Harome is Hugh Spicer. He is presumably someone who deals in spices and comestibles. The reference is quite unique for Ryedale at this time.

But by the 1320's William de Ros of Helmsley had assumed the under as well as over lordship of Harome. The reason may be that William de Harome had no direct male heir or that his daughter's descendants sold the manor to the de Ros. Victoria County History (8) states that Margaret the daughter and heir of William de Harome had wed Nicholas le Mareschal of Dalton, near Topcliffe.

Later Nicholas de Topcliffe and Emma, his wife and heiress in Harome, conveyed tenements in Harome to William de Ros in 1323. From then on the de Ros family had the manor of Harome.

In 1350 a Harome extent mentions a decrease in taxes and that the village has been severely affected by the great mortality, the Black Death.

There are many references to the de Harum family in the 14th and 15th centuries, but they associate them principally with places outside Harome itself, especially the towns of York and Scarborough. It appears that these descendants are now residing in the towns. Robert de Harum in 1352 is described as a mercer, as well as a bailiff and freeman of York. In 1381 he came to York "in war-like manner", and was a principal leader in the Peasant's Revolt in York. He was charged with making an attack on Bootham Bar with others and forming 'liveried' associations, that is private companies wearing the livery of their lord. His will is dated at Harome in 1392, from which we infer that he sometimes lived there.

Meanwhile in Scarborough in 1405 William Harom, as bailiff of Scarborough, was required to be brought before the King for taking an enormous cargo of beer, linen cloth and wainscots from a Hamburg ship. Yet he was acting again as bailiff in 1415.

Harome Hall

Much about this period will be found in J. Hurst's Story of Harome Hall and R. H. Hayes' Excavations at Harome Hall. It is not our intention to repeat what has already been written, but it might be helpful briefly to summarize the main points.

Harome Hall dates from the 16th century and was a medieval-style manor house. It fell into a ruinous state and was moved to the Ryedale Folk Museum in the early 1970s. Described by Eastmead as "a once splendid fabric called the 'Old Hall', "it was an open hall with a solar, and three pairs of massive crucks - some of the largest yet found in Ryedale. Some of the fine dressed stone, 12th century in date, had mason's marks which were similar to marks found at Rievaulx and Byland Abbey. Did they come from an earlier building on the site or from the ruins of Rievaulx? On the walls of the solar were several panels of painted decoration, dated by Dr. Gee to 1600-1630. Hidden in the thatched roof was a rare example of a silver spoon of c.1510. There is a replica of it in the Ryedale Folk Museum.

## Two Manors

From the medieval period onwards there were two important holdings mentioned: the Manor of Harome and the Manor of Haghe or Haw. John de Ros of Helmsley was described as holding both manors in 1421, in an Inquisition Post Mortem. It read as follows:

A. The demesne in the Manor of Harome.  
 The site of the Manor with a barn (grangia) and  
 sheepfold built therein is worth nothing beyond  
 reprises.  
 There are 80 acres of demesne arable, worth yearly 12d an acre  
 50     "     of meadow, mown every year                   2/- an acre  
 80     "     of pasture                                       1/6 an acre

(210 acres worth £15)

Ten cottages held at will 8/- each per year  
A watermill 20/- a year

B. In like manner he holds the Manor of Hagh (Haugh). The site of the Manor with a grangia is worth nothing beyond reprises.

There are 100 acres of demesne arable at 12d an acre yearly  
50 " of meadow 2/- " " "  
100 " of pasture 1/- " " "

(250 acres worth £15)

The high value of meadow is notable.

Harome Haw

At this point it may be useful to examine the area known as the Haugh, now known as Harome Haw. It is a puzzle and needs some explanation.

Harome Haw is situated on level ground at only 130 feet OD. The manor site is just over half a mile SW of Harome village. It is shown on the 1856 O. S. map as a moated and embanked enclosure and marked "Site of OLD HALL." The lane leading from the village is called 'Hall Lane.' The Rye runs a short distance to the SW near Priest Holme Ings.

In 1873 the York-Helmsley branch of the North Eastern Railway cut through the southwestern corner of the Enclosure and since then most of the area has been levelled. No finds were recorded when the railway was made, but probably none were looked for.

One of the recent mentions of the site is in 1824 in the Reverend Eastmead (10):

"About a half mile SW of Harum in a field called Hall Garth are the vestiges of a once extensive building, which was probably the most ancient residence of the late de Harums; the field is now in the possession of Mr. Jonathan Taylor, whose men not long since dug up two pieces of stone, which appear to have formed part of a window, and which no doubt were fragments of the ancient mansion."

Thomas Parker (11) in c.1850 followed Eastmead's description, adding:

"This house has been surrounded by a deep moat into which water has been conducted from the Rye, the canal through which it was conveyed being still traceable to Rye House. (R.H.H.'s note - is this true or was it most likely part of the fulling mill leat?) The last remains of the walls were destroyed and the moat filled up about the year 1780. The orchard was demolished about 1810."

No excavation has taken place on the site to prove whether it was a medieval mansion. Probing the site in 1972 revealed stonework thirty paces from the railway fence. The line was dismantled in 1965. The moat suggests a medieval origin, perhaps of the 14th-15th century. A Ryedale parallel might be the moated site of the rectory, also on low lying land, in Kirby Misperton (12). (So described in 1532).

On the SE side of the Haw Garth field a cambered road can be traced, sometimes thought to be Roman, but most likely connected with the site. In the field SE of the lane the topstone of a beehive quern was found at a great depth. (Information from Mr. Knowlson). It was last known of in the collection of Peter Wenham at St. John's College, York. Nothing Roman has been recorded in the vicinity.

There are many variations in the spelling of the site name : including

|            |                           |
|------------|---------------------------|
| 13th-14thc | Haghe, possibly "del Hay" |
| 16thc      | Haugh                     |
| 17th-19thc | Haughte, Haw, Hull        |
| 20thc      | Haw                       |

The meaning of this name is uncertain. It may derive from Healh, OE for corner or angle. Allen Mawer says that Halgh is confined to the North of England, e.g. Hawstead, which means a Hall site (13). Dorothy Whitelock describes certain 10th century townhouse sites as "Haws", which were the enclosed holdings of country estates in the newly developing towns (14). Ekwall says that the word for enclosure, : haga, gives us such variations today, all meaning enclosure, as:

Haugh, in Leicester - Haghe, 1204.

|                       |   |                    |
|-----------------------|---|--------------------|
| Haw, in Gloucester    | - | Hawe, 1327.        |
| Hay, in Herefordshire | - | La Haye, 1259 (15) |

A place may be given its name because of its distinguishing feature. Harome Haw is in part an enclosed demesne meadow. In the medieval period such enclosure would have been distinctive at a time when most agricultural practice centred on communal farming and open fields.

Another example of Haga or Hagg meaning enclosure, which still survives today, is as a term for coppiced woodland. Woodland had to be enclosed to preserve the coppice from grazing animals.

The origins of Harome Haw have been traced, not without some uncertainty, to a separate possession of the Helmsley fee. Thus in the early records it does not appear under the Manor of Harum.

In a Fine of c. 1246-72, William de Ros of Helmsley granted to Roger, prior of Kirkham, the right of estovers (wood for fuel or repairs) in all the woods of Helmsley, except the Old Park east of Helmsley, another park west of Helmsley and "a piece of land, pasture and alder grove ('alneti') called the Haghe, lying between the field of Harum and the Rye." (16) De Ros was to maintain the fencing of these areas. At this early period the Haw is mentioned in association with the old parkland of Helmsley and is separately fenced or enclosed.

In 1285 Robert de Ros held amongst his many possessions "a several meadow called Haghe worth 100/- per annum." "Several" means that the tenure was individual or unshared, that is, not in common. It was private, enclosed meadowland and very valuable, held directly of the Helmsley fee and treated as a separate unit.

In the Lay Subsidy of 1301 one John del Hay at Harome pays a tax of 2/- on his possessions, suggesting a reasonably well-to-do farmer.

In the Inquisition Post Mortem of 1343 William de Ros held the manor of Harome and certain tenements in Pockley, Beadlam and le Haghe (extent given). It is from this period on that Harome and the Haw became linked under the one ownership. De Ros's father had granted "to John de Middleton, for his service, the keepership ('custodiam') of a certain plot called le Haghe in Helmsley, as William de Yolton (17) had the same, saving the profits to William de Ros, and taking for the same yearly for 10 weeks one quarter of wheat, price 3s 4d, from the manor of Helmsley, a robe yearly price 13/4, and pasture for two of his cows in the old park of Helmsley, with the oxen of the said manor." (18) In this reference we are given the first mention of a tenement at the Haw, with a custodian who is richly rewarded for his services there. In addition, de Ros holds in demesne at le Haghe 90 acres of meadow, each acre worth 2/- per annum.

The manors of both Harome and the Hagh are mentioned in 1414 and in 1421. As mentioned above, the Hagh had 250 acres, an extensive and valuable holding at £15. It is in fact larger than the demesne of Harome manor and noteworthy as the only occasion when a sizeable portion of the Haw land is referred to as arable. It is interesting to find the Hagh described as a manor, and to speculate on its development.

Most manors took shape immediately after the Conquest. Their common elements consisted of demesne land, villein land, and frequently holdings of free tenants, together with common and waste, all exploited by the service of villeins. (19) We noted above that in 1343 de Ros refers to his "demesne" at the Haw, using this manorial term. However air photos do not show any trace of a vanished settlement around the Haw site. The cottagers may have been

in the village itself.

The puzzling nature of the area is shown by various speculations, which, though not mutually exclusive, demonstrate the complexity of Harome Haw:

J. Rushton - It may be the lost Middleham of Domesday Book.  
It may have been a special perquisite granted  
to the stewards of the Helmsley fee that is,  
the de Harums, de Middleton and later the Croslands

Eastmead and Parker - The Haw was one of the seats of the  
de Harums.

J. McDonnell - It may have been the original demesne of the  
de Harome family.

J. Hurst - The Haw was part of the manor of Helmsley, never  
of the manor of Harome,

We would suggest that the Haw was the separate manor of 1½ carucates of  
the pre-Conquest Sortcol and continued as a separate holding in the Helmsley Fee.

#### Continuity from the Pre-Conquest.

Is it reasonable to find continuity in land holdings in Harome from  
Domesday to 1637 and beyond? Examination of the documents for Harome leads  
us to suggest that there is remarkable continuity of land holdings between  
Domesday and 1637.

In 1086 there were four landowners in Harome with a total of 7½ carucates.  
It is likely that:

- a. the carucate was already a fossilized unit at Domesday  
and used as a value assessment of the worth of Harome.
- b. the Church property was a highly conservative one, likely to  
be both ancient and unchanging.

The following sub-headings 1-4 discuss the material in Table A.

#### 1. The Domesday Book

At 1066 Sortcol had only two holdings in the area: the  
proposed Haw site and the vill of Sproxton which adjoins  
it. The de Sproxtons later held the vill of Sproxton, of  
the King "in sergeanty of the Forest, before the King  
disafforested the Forest of Rydale." (20) Sergeanty was  
a tenure based on performing a particular service. In this  
case it was associated with the King's Forest. The Haw  
lies adjacent to Sproxton with its parkland, as well as  
next to the "Old Park" of Helmsley. The roots of the  
Haw, a special holding of William de Ros with his important  
14th century "Custodiam" there, may lie in these ancient  
Forest associations.

#### 2. Kirkby's Inquest of 1285 lists only four carucates for William de Harum in Harome. Therefore 3½ carucates mentioned at Domesday are not accounted for. The Haw may account for 1½ carucates and the church holding for 2 oxgangs.

TABLE A  
Land Distribution : 1086 - 1285 - 1421 - 1637

Key: Definite figures  
Projected figures

|   | Hall<br>Manor  | Church                           | Haw  |
|---|--|----------------------------------|--|
| 1. Domesday<br>7½ car.                    | Ughtred Manor & <u>5 car.</u><br>Hugh, son of Baldric <u>1 car.</u>      | Torbrand<br><u>2 oxgangs</u>     | Sortcol<br>Manor &<br><u>1½ car.</u>                                     |
| 2. Kirkby's<br>Inquest<br>1285            | <u>4 car.</u>  | <u>2 oxgangs</u>                 | <u>1½ car.</u><br>(or 12 oxgangs)  |
| 3. I.P.M.<br>1421                         | <u>£15 value<br/>of demesne</u><br><u>210 acres</u><br><u>12 oxgangs</u> |                                  | <u>£15 value<br/>of demesne</u><br><u>250 acres</u><br><u>12 oxgangs</u> |
| 4. 1637<br>Survey                         |  |                                  |  |
| 1. c. <u>1580</u> <sup>(1)</sup><br>acres | <u>270 acres</u>   | <u>870 acres</u>                 | c. <u>40 acres</u><br><u>400 acres</u>                                   |
| 2. <u>62</u><br>oxgangs <sup>(2)</sup>    | <u>12 oxgangs</u>  | <u>33 oxgangs</u> <sup>(3)</sup> | <u>2 oxgangs</u><br><u>12 oxgangs</u>                                    |

1. Does not include common moor of 300 acres.
2. 62 oxgangs = original 7½ carucates of Domesday. 3 oxgangs are not accounted for, perhaps due to partial enclosure.
3. 28 oxgangs - in the open fields belonging to messuages  
 $3\frac{1}{2}$  " (or 29 a. in strips) - " " " " to cottagers  
 $1\frac{1}{2}$  " (or 11 a. in strips in Head Carr) - possible oxgangland

33 oxgangs

3. The 1421 Inquisition Post Mortem gives the demesne of both the Hall and the Haw. They are the same in value with similar acreages. Their identical value may reflect a similar size in terms of oxgangs, both with a proposed twelve.
4. The 1637 Survey (See next section) provides a fairly accurate guide to the comparative sizes we have been discussing. The relative acreages of the Hall, village, Church and the Haw correspond approximately in size to the proposed oxgang arrangement.

If the above values are accepted, then they support the argument that the Haw was Sortcol's holding at Domesday, which remained intact under the Helmsley fee in the de Ros family.

In 1550 the Earls of Rutland, who were the descendants of the de Ros, leased the Haw to Sir Robert Constable of Everingham for 30 years at a yearly rent of £13.10.0. It was then sub-leased to the Metcalfes and we find the actual mention of residence there in 1564 when Jane Metcalfe of Harom Hawght leaves her son Christopher a silver spoon, as well as further bequests of no less than eight silver spoons. In his will (21) of 1580 Christopher, now described as of Rievaulx, Gentleman, leased his farm of the Haugh with summer pasture, Cote field, Priestholme, with fields on both sides of the river and a close meadow called the Haugh.

By 1632 Janes Crosland held the Haw with house, orchard and garth and 300 acres of land. She was followed by her son Francis, who in the Survey of 1637, is the largest property holder in Harome with 394 acres. There are three entries in the Survey relating to him:

1. meadowland of 64 acres
2. "the manner house with a lathe (barn) and one other little house which hath been a stable, one garth called the Greene..." (possibly Aby Green?) and 172 acres @ £13.9.1. per year
3. a farm called Harome Hall with 158 acres @ £13.0.0. per year

The land is entirely pasture and meadow except for 16 acres of arable and is located to the S and SW of Harome. "The manner house" is clearly the Haw but the identity of the Harome Hall farm is uncertain. (It is not the Manor House of Harome or Hall Garth farm). At one point the Survey refers to "one close of meadow called Bromley, 15 acres, which said close lay within one field belonging to Harome Towne called Bromley before it was enclosed." (See map for 'Bromley' north-east of the Haw) Thus enclosure is taking place early at Harome. The entry is making the distinction between the Haw holding and the town. "The manner house" must have been a very considerable house indeed, because in the Hearth Tax of 1673 (22) it has eight or nine hearths, one of the largest houses in Ryedale. The Croslands were a powerful family who played a prominent part locally in the Civil War. It was Sir Jordan Crosland who held Helmsley Castle when besieged by Fairfax's Parliamentary forces and negotiated its surrender on very favourable terms in 1644. The family suffered quite heavy losses and fines for their part in the Civil War, as well as being regularly fined throughout the period for their strong Catholic tendencies. We last hear of them as late as 1765 on a list of recusants, when Mr. Crosland of "Hareholme Hall in Helmsley" is mentioned. It is not long afterwards we read Parker's account of the last remains of the walls of the Haw being destroyed in 1780.

### Harome as a Recusant retreat

One of the recurring themes at this period of Harome's history was the presence of prominent Catholic families residing there. J. McDonnell in the History of Helmsley, pp. 144-64, gives an account of recusancy in the Helmsley area. The sympathy towards Catholics undoubtedly began at the highest levels with the Earls of Rutland, the Manners family, who were Catholics or sympathisers at different periods. They let Harome Haw to R. Constable of Everingham, an outright Catholic, who sublet it to the Metcalfes. When Jane Metcalfe died her will of 1564 followed the Catholic formula as did many of the Harome wills at this time.

The Croslands at the Haw were frequently Catholic. Henry Crosland married Catherine Metcalfe in the mid-17th century. (23) This alliance may explain the reappearance of the Metcalfes in Harome at this period. In the Hearth Tax of 16/3 a Mr. Metcalfe is listed as having a very large house in Harome of five hearths. It is the only other substantial house in Harome besides the Haw. This house was no doubt Harome Hall. We recall that the Metcalfes had lived at the Haw 100 years earlier when their family heirlooms of many silver spoons were mentioned. It is tempting to speculate whether it may be at this point that the rare silver spoon, found in the thatch at the dismantling of the Hall, was first hidden there.

Several other gentry families were also finding Harome a refuge from persecution. On the list of recusants (24) at this time were :

- 1597 (also 1594 and 1598) William Stelling, Gent. de Harum Hall
- 1600 Suzanna Morrett of Heyram (at Harome Hall)
- 1637 and 1640 M. Earneley, Gent. of Haram
- 1735 Henry Crosland Esq. of Harome
- 1765 Mr. Crosland "Hareholme Hall in Helmsley"

Both the Hall and the Haw were 'safe houses' where Catholics from other regions could find shelter. Their stay may sometimes have been quite fleeting as in the case of M. Earneley, whose only mention is on the above list. He does not even appear in the very detailed list of Harome inhabitants given in the 1637 Survey.

### The 1637 Survey of Harome

The 1637 Survey (25) is a remarkable record of 8½ pages that names every occupant of Harome and describes each parcel of land he holds.

The boundary of the Manor of Harome is given:  
"The said lordshop or manor hath his perambulation -  
beginning at the said Walke Mill (Rye House) and from  
thence goeth to Ramsey, and goeth to Hurstwhaite, and  
south to Hartholme to one ground of Robert Thornton Esq.,  
called Mappe Hagge, and so east down to Nonington Lawood  
(Low Wood?) and from there east to Nonington Carr, then north-  
east to Rikell Garthes, then north to Geldersdall (Gildhusdale)  
belonging to Wimbleton and thence to Wimbleton Cote garth  
and so north-west to Nawton Syke and from thence to Budlame  
Wyde Rane (bank separating Beadlam and Harome) and so west  
unto the northeast end of Helmsley East Parke unto to  
foresaid Alke Mill whence we began."

Perambulations are very traditional, recording in an extraordinary way the very ancient memory of the village bounds.

At the time of the Survey John Morrett held the capital messuage called Harom Hall with two lathes (barns), another old decayed lathe called the Haver Lathe (oat barn), one ox-house, and hay house, a kiln and a garner (granary). His holding, which was later called Hall Garth Farm, was made up as follows :

|         |                  |
|---------|------------------|
| arable  | 127 acres        |
| meadow  | 40 acres         |
| pasture | <u>104 acres</u> |
|         | 271 acres        |

It was held at a rent of £19.5.8 per year. It is curious to note that one can almost arrive at this sum by applying the same rents per acre as appeared in the 1421 I.P.M. His son Richard leased Harom Hall from the Earl of Rutland for 21 years at £40 per year. The rent has doubled, implying the purpose of the Survey was to revalue the township.

A typical tenant, Richard Hagge held along with other lands, two swathes of meadow in Tenedayles, two in Crookdales, and others in Bulldale, Waterdale and Carrdale. They are all 'doles' or strips, akin to the numerous Wandas.

Other field names and points of interest mentioned are

1. Stanwith or -wath - a ford over the Rye, west of Crook House
2. Priestholme - by the Rye, south of the Haw.
3. Brackenhate - possibly meaning 'thwaite'.
4. Douthwaite Ings - from Celtic; 'doo' or dark
5. Withyfield and Maudebury Nook - adjoining Nunnington pasture
6. Shaw Moor is usually Bradshaw Moor.
7. Hether Norwood Heads - Harome Heads?
8. Pant Hagg and Ox-pasture - On Harome Common east of the village.
9. Riccal Moor, where turbary is mentioned, is the Ox pasture.
10. Red Carr Gap may be Reed Carr.
11. Common Moor of 300 acres shared with Wombleton and Nawton
12. "one haylath at the Guilde House" - a very archaic term meaning Inn. Gildhusedal Wath (c. 1279) was at Ellerby bridge.
13. Many names with woodland elements, suggesting Harome was once quite wooded - Shaw, Northwood, Douthwaite, Pant Hagg, Stanwaith, Park to the west.
14. Many kilns - even held by cottagers.
15. Vast ings or meadowland compared to any other village in the area.
16. Pockley Ings (or Harom Haughte Ings) grazed by many Pockley tenants. (This may be a medieval arrangement when both Pockley and the Haw were under Helmsley?)
17. Crosland holds a sheep rake (grazing) on the common of Beadlam

From this document we gain some idea of the open fields.

- A. All the oxgangs are located in
  1. With or Wise field
  2. Shaw field
  3. Little field
- B. The Foreby-land (land taken into cultivation later and attached to oxgangs) is Far or Heather Norwood.
- C. Bromley and Hetherwheatley where Harome Hall has most of its arable.

By the 19th century the field names change.

| 1637         |         | 1840                                       |
|--------------|---------|--|
| With field   | becomes | Hall Garth Field, S-SE of village          |
| Shaw field   | "       | Shaws and Green Dyke field<br>N of village |
| Little field | "       | Owman or Olman NW of village               |

The holdings show a mixture of open fields as well as enclosure. The two main holdings of Harome Hall and the Haw are both largely enclosed. The other main holders of the land are the fourteen tenants who are described as having messuages. A survival that the Survey conserves is the oxgang, a relic of the ancient farming system. It is always associated with the messuages and quite small at 8-10 acres. Another of the typical messuage holdings in the village is Thomas Hagg's. It is worth examining because it still preserves the characteristic spread and diversity of an ancient farm. In addition to his farmhouse, T. Hagg has one close of meadow of 8½ acres; parcels of meadow in Harom Ings of 4½ acres; one little parcell of meadow inclosed called Manberry Nook of 1 acre. Pasture, 2½ acres in the Panthagge now inclosed and upon Bradshaw Moore 1½ acres. Arable land, three oxgangs containing 26½ acres viz. in the With field 6 acres 3 roods with a close of 3 acres; in the Heade Carr Ley 3 roods; in the Shawfield 9½ acres; in the Little Field 7½ acres; in the Far Northwood Heads (not of the oxgang lands) 3 acres. There are also 12 pasture gates in the Oxe Pasture there.

The survey accounts for 28 oxgangs, all attached to the messuages. Each oxgang retains its stint or right to graze four cows, that is four beastgates to one oxgang in the ox pasture. Each of the messuages has kept its exact entitlement; the buying and selling of beastgates has not yet arrived in Harome.

Some additional Harome land appears in a separate Survey of Helmsley and belongs to the Rectory there. Harome was a chapelry in the parish of Helmsley. This holding consists of a further 2 oxgangs.

The rest of the holdings are the two mills, a 'presthause' and there were thirty cottagers, most of whom held very little land indeed.

#### The Hearth Tax of 1673 (See Appendix B)

The Hearth Tax list gives us the name of each householder in the village and how many hearths there are in his house. There are two very substantial houses for the period that appear on the list.

1. Mr. Crosland with 8 or 9 hearths
2. Mr. Metcalfe with 5 hearths

There are also two houses with two hearths each. The remaining 39 houses have only one hearth, a characteristic of the forehouse of the period.

What is surprising to find is that a high number of Harome inhabitants are too poor to pay the tax. Out of the 43 households listed, fourteen of them have been discharged from paying. Even allowing for some tax evasion, nearly 33% of the village are discharged.

In an attempt to understand the situation a comparison was made between the names on the Hearth Tax and those on the 1637 Survey. Although thirty-six years had passed there was a reasonable continuity in the inhabitants. The 1637 Survey showed that 31 of the 50 households in Harome are cottages (62%), mostly holding only a few acres. Seven of these cottages 'disappear' altogether by 1670. The families of those discharged from the later Hearth Tax all tie in with those living in the cottages in 1637. Why were there so many cottagers in Harome? Some of the dwellings may have been attached to the two demesnes of the Hall and the Haw, with little land or appurtenances of their own.

As a low-paid work-force they may have worked the Haw, if it was a specially created demesne without villeins and their customary land tenure, but rather with landless cottagers. This might also help to explain why there have been so many modest cottages in Harome of cruck-frame construction.

#### Thomas Parker's Notebooks

For the next period of Harome's history, especially the 19th century, we would turn to the richly descriptive accounts of the village by Thomas Parker. Extracts from his notebooks of 1858 have already appeared in Ryedale Historian, No.10 and No.11 (1980 and 1982), for other Ryedale areas, and we would continue them here for Harome:

"Rie house was long the residence of my antiquarian friend, Tom Saville Wind, who during his abode at this then humble mansion, opened a barrow (c.1799) in one of his fields, containing stone hammers and hand mills.

"The village is long and straggling ; the houses for the most part covered with thatch. There are still to be seen some ancient swape wells (pumps with long handles), a mode of draining water peculiar to the Eastern counties. The church is an ancient structure, originally of Norman architecture. On the West window which is of singular shape are the initials I.H.S. in Lombardic letters, carved in stone and on each side representations of the sun and moon ; beneath the moon is a cross and under it a figure of a hatchet (26) The oak stalls were destroyed 30 years ago, but still to be seen is a splendid carved-front, oaken cabinet, used in former times to hold the vestments of the Catholic clergy who officiated here before the time of Queen Elizabeth. The churchyard is very small and without any gravestones, though in former times it was said to be a burial ground and human bones are still dug up." (27) (In a later notebook Parker writes that:)"In 1860 the old church of Harome was pulled down and every vestige demolished. The curious West window with its stone carvings was destroyed, the oak cabinet "the most magnificent I ever saw" was allowed to rot in the churchyard and the stained glass of the Crucifixion in the East window was taken away. The new Church was opened in 1862, as well as the noble Gothic house of the minister, near the site of the old hall of the de Harums. Near the old hall was the stump of an elm tree, measuring 23 feet round, and being hollow served as a pig sty and a calf pen. An ancient stone cross stood in the village until the 18th century. A Gothic schoolhouse was built by Lord Feversham with a residence for the master. The Wesleyan Methodists have a chapel, over the entrance of which is a sundial, with the latin inscription meaning "Time passes away with a nimble pace". The maker's name and date are given, J. Russel del., 1806. The only Catholic family in Harome in 1826 were the Watsons but they have departed and the rest emigrated to America.

"Up to 1810 the inhabitants of Harome were chiefly employed in weaving cloth, but since the enclosures of the commons and the common fields they have followed farming for which the place is remarkable. Harome is the best corn-growing district in the parish. The families of Smith, Howe, Barker, Pickard, Burton, Grey, Snowdon and Almack had long been resident here.

"The present generation of Harumites, though civil to strangers, are high in the fields of extravagance and dress, forgetting that their ancestors wore hempen shirts.

"The waters of the Rye sink above the cascade near Helmsley and after going underground for two miles rise near the place called Walk Mill, near the house occupied by T. Jewison. The Riccal sinks above Riccal bridge, near Beadlam Grange, and having gone through the rock 2½ miles rises at the Black Bull head.

"The elegant house at Aby Green adjoining the village to the south was built in the year 1857, by the expense and labour of Lord Feversham and William Colley, the farmer. It is one of the best farms on the estate. The canons of Kirkham Priory possessed free warren in this place.

"In Harome about 20 years ago (c. 1838?) died a gigantic blacksmith named Thomas Picard, who during his sojourn at Harome had the following remarkable dream, which was printed and circulated accordingly." The account is a good example of the diversity of Parker. Lightly ironical, it depicts some of the influences current in 19th century Harome, immersed in the Old Testament and preaching and dread of the French.

#### Picard's Dream (abridged)

"And it came to pass in the 30th year of the reign of King George, that the people of the land were sore afraid... Because of the French, for they had with a mighty hand extended their conquests far and wide. And they threatened to visit the people of England and to lay waste their habitations and to smite their young men with the edge of the sword. And it came to pass a certain man named Picard, an Harumite, sojourned in the land. And he dreamed a dream and there appeared onto him a mighty host of Frenchmen, clad in armour, carrying lances and spears. And in the midst of them there was a Guillotine and it had choppers in abundance....

"And when he awoke he was sore afraid. And his spirit sunk within him and his knees smote against each other.

"And when he told his wife his dream she lifted up her hands and they spent the whole night in lamentations. And in the morning he took a pick axe and a spade and went into the yard and he digged a pit.

"And when the even was come he took down his bacon and his hams and his pigs' heads, And his gold and his silver buckles, And his bonds and bills and his last will and testament. And he put them in the pit and laid turf on the earth with great care, so that no man save himself could tell where the pit was.

"And he called the place 'Picard's Treasury,' and it is there to this day."

#### Cruck Houses

Harome still retains eight or nine cruck-framed houses and in the early 20th century there were at least nineteen examples, all thatched and white-washed. We would refer our readers to Hayes and Rutter, Cruck-Framed Buildings, where those houses are all described.

One known as Pickard's Cottage (28) has now been re-erected at the Ryedale Folk Museum. It is furnished in farm-house fashion with the third bay as a dairy with churns, butter and cheese-making implements. The interior is almost exactly as it was in the 19th century. The parlour or middle room originally had an open hearth, known by the blackening of the stones behind the present brick fireplace. The small hearth window was blocked up but is now restored. The spice cupboard is in the usual position between the hearth and the window. Between the crucks is a studded partition wall ; the cruck blade above the rear passage had been cut away to give more access and a stout post placed under it. An unusual feature in the rear passage is a cupboard in the outside wall.

Cross Farm takes its name from the vanished cross. It stands on the corner of the Harome Heads road and has upper crucks visible in the bedroom.

Photographs by William Hayes of c. 1926 show the following:

1. South of the church was a longhouse or two adjoining cottages. They were very low, thatched and white-washed. On the west end there was a central cross-passage and tiny fire-window.
2. Another old thatched cottage stood east of the post office, possibly a block of four in 1830.
3. Just below the present village hall were two old cottages, one of which was very low and tiny.

A small cottage just south of the north back lane, "Headlands Cottage", may retain old features, though so far it is unrecorded.

Summerfield Cottage, on the south side of Chapel Lane, is a small cottage with two pairs of shortened upper crucks, visible in the bedrooms.

The conclusions drawn from this survey of the houses point to a number of very old farmsteads, possibly ten or more clustered around the Hall and manorial chapel, with some also in Mill Street. Between them were the small cottages of the farmworkers and the weavers. The greens contracted to wide grassy verges as houses encroached on them. The cottages spread along the main street and the road to Wombleton, straggling haphazardly towards the east end. The back lanes gave access to farmyards and garths.

Aby Green is a 19th century re-building, on the site of Harbour Green.

It was not until the mid-20th century that estates like Knavesmire Close and Airey houses were erected on what was a large enclosed green in the early 19th century.

There is a tradition of a fair held in Harome until about 1700 but it was abolished at the request of the villagers.

#### Chapels

The first Methodist Chapel was built in the late 18th century just off the south lane. It is recorded in an old photograph of c. 1880 as a tall three to four storey building, with the higher south end pantiled and the lower north end slated. It was replaced by a brick-built, gothic-type structure which is still in use. It was photographed by W. Hayes in 1926.

Before the Methodists, the Quakers had their meetings in private houses. In 1701 they met at the house of John Snowden and in 1708 at the house of Robert Sigsworth.

#### Inns

There were two inns by the mid-19th century, the Unicorn Head and the Board Inn. The earliest record of a Harome inn-keeper is one being charged for brewing in 1615 at Slingsby Sessions. At the same time a Harome man was also charged for harbouring rogues. The Unicorn Head with garth and orchard is mentioned in 1890 when Thos. Boyes was the landlord. George Pickard was the innkeeper at the Board Inn in 1840; it may later have become the present village pub, the Star Inn, where Annie Parker was the landlady in 1890.

Most of the village was sold in 1915, apart from the manor house and a few other houses, on the death of Lord Feversham in France. (29) Thus with his death Harome's link of over 800 years with the estate of Helmsley was ended.

### Watermills

There were two watermills in Harome dating from the medieval period: a corn mill in the village and a fulling mill about a half mile out of the village. What is not always clear is which of the two sites is being referred to in the earlier documentary evidence. It may even be that there was only one mill at first, working so many days a week as a corn mill and the other days as a fulling mill. However the cloth industry was an important one in the Harome area from an early period and therefore likely to be supporting more than just a part-time fulling mill. Mill Street is sometimes called Umphill, possibly meaning Hemphill.

Today's corn mill is situated in the village on its south side (OS 64708168). It is fed by a race about 300 metres long, from a spring-fed pond (30). The Mill house is of limestone rubble with a red pantiled roof. The mill is a small building at the east end. It ground corn until 1933, from a water wheel. It was converted to a turbine in 1933 and was still grinding in 1987.

The fulling mill was certainly at Rye House. Eastmead in 1824 says "The walk mill was near the house of Ann Wind." L. Parker mentions that Saville Wind lived at Rye House in the mid-19th century. Traces of the fulling mill building are still visible south west of Rye House (SE 633822). Whellan in 1859 says "The Rye, after sinking at the cascades near Helmsley resurges at a place called Walk Mill." (31)

The earliest record of a mill at Harome dates from the reign of Henry III, 1216-72. A grant (32) was made by John Tinctor, son of John of Hunderpool (Underpool?) of Harom, to Dominus Peter the chaplain. His brother, of all the land in the town and territory of Harom (except the toft called Holm behind the milne) : namely an assart which Folk made with the capital dwelling house in which his father lived and died.

A little later in the reign of Edward I 1272-1307 Dominus Peter made a similar grant (33) :

"Peter de Harum, chaplain, to Walter, son of John of Harum, his nephew, of a toft with a messuage, formerly Faulk's in the town of Harum, behind the mill of the lord of Harum with right of sufficient wood for building and burning, and waters for fishing. To hold on a yearly rent of 2 shillings."

The mill referred to may be the corn mill in the village proper, though its position by the Holm does not help to locate it definitely. A holme is land subject to flooding and, not surprisingly, there are at least six holmes in Harome (1637 Survey), with both of the water mills near holmes. However the mill is next to a toft and messuage, which at this period is likely to be in the village. The only reason for doubting this location is because there are several suggestions of possible connections with fulling in these two grants. In the first grant there is John the dyer's son, following on in the same place as his father probably continuing in the family trade. They are closely related

to Peter, who is described as "dominus" and they bear the "de Harum" name.

The word 'assart' means reclamation bringing marginal land into cultivation, which in itself suggests the outlying land of a village - all of which would fit in with the site of a fulling mill half a mile away. At the end of the grants there is a reference to the right of fishing (piscary), a rarely mentioned common right in Ryedale, presumably exercised on the Rye near the more distant fulling mill.

In the 1301 Lay Subsidy there is a William Full listed for Harome, paying a tax of 5d. The entry indicates that Harome had a special interest in fulling, as it was not common for village fullers to appear on this tax list. Towns were the more usual early centres for the cloth industry. A major family like de Ros may have sought to encourage new industry on their Helmsley estate. The de Haromes as their stewards would have been well placed to foster such development in nearby Harome.

Robert de Harum, who appears in York in 1350 as a wealthy, important man, was described as a mercer, his prosperity based on the cloth industry. His continuous link with Harome seems certain since his will was dated here in 1392.

In an Inquisition Post Mortem of 1421, there is a watermill at Harome worth 20 shillings. In 1430 there was a watermill for grain and a fulling mill. In 1460 a toft, assart, and mill are mentioned which rather sounds like the same holding described in the 13th century grants.

In the 16th century there are several wills (34) that cast interesting light on the mills.

In 1557 Robert Billingham of Harom leaves:

"To my daughter Barbara for her child's portion all my sheep... To my son Robert one pair of walker sheares, To my son Hugh one jack, one sallet (iron vessel) one iron gavelock (crowbar) and all my iron wedges and working gear that belongs to my occupation....as ye know my walk myne is in decay, but for that Alex Jameson of Nunnington and Henry Shipperde of Harum is bound as well as I for to uphold all manner of goynge gear that belongs to the myne" .

R. Billingham is a fuller and he expects that his children will carry on the family trade. What is unusual is to discover that the fulling mill is worked as a partnership and that it is already in decline.

Other Harome wills mention bequests of linen as objects of value.

William Billingham, a relative of the above-mentioned Robert leaves:

- to the chapel of Harome a yard of my lynne  
- to Katherine Wilson  $\frac{1}{2}$  yd of my lynne cloth  
John Aireson in 1546 leaves  
- to the altar of Harome Chapel 4 yds of linen cloth

Thomas Bared in 1584 is the millwright and leaves to his wife all his title,

which he has of Henry Percy, in Harome Mylne. Besides being a millwright and subletting the mill he is also engaged in farming and quaintly specifies in his will :

To Christopher my eldest son a cow called Starueld  
To my son James a cow called Gareld  
To my son Michael a cow called lyllie.

He asks that his mare be sold to pay for his funeral expenses. This has an antique ring to it of earlier times. In the middle ages your best horse was a standard mortuary gift to the parish priest a practice which may have supplanted the pre-Christian rite of sacrificing your horse at your funeral rites. He also gives "To my son Christopher all my working towillis cogges, trundle heades (discs), spindles and two chests, one new with a lock and one other that do want a lock but there is a lock in Robert Scott's chest which I gave to Chris." Thus everything is thought of even "To my wife Jane all my debts." Finally he asks that his brother Mattheas "shall learn my son Christopher his occupation."

In the 1637 Survey of Harome the mills are mentioned many times. The boundary perambulation begins at the walk mill on the west of Harome. One of the puzzling aspects of the Survey is that two separate entries are given for Symon Michael who holds:

1. one water corn mill with one close of meadow called the Milne Holme 1 a 3 r and he pays yearly £4.0.6d
2. one water mill, one parcel of meadow called the Holme 2 a, and he pays yearly £4.

William Sympson holds one little close of 1 r, lying beneath the corn milne. Thomas Billingham, probably a descendant of the above-mentioned fullers, holds  $\frac{1}{2}$  a. of meadow in Harome Ings called Walke Mill Holmes. John Morrett at Harome Hall holds a close, Far Wheatley of 31 a., joining upon the Walke Mill. He also holds a close of meadow called Bark house Inge of 3 a. which is where bark may have been collected and stored at Harome. Some family names appear in the Survey as well as in the 1542 Lay Subsidy (35), that suggest connections with weavers, such as Brabiner (Flemish weavers) and Webster (weaver).

In 1642 Thomas Wood holds the mill and 10 a. 11 r. for £15 per annum. Later holders of the mills are William Simpson in 1739 and John Boyes in 1830.

Thus the corn mill continued working down to present times. The fulling mill however is mentioned as in decay in the 16th century and is last heard of in the 17th century. The West Riding was already overtaking the North Riding in the clothing industry, even in this early period with its fast flowing streams of soft water and very competitive weavers. Nevertheless textiles were locally important and certainly little is known about the hemp industry. For example, we only have hints of its presence in the "ancient hemp garths" of Nunnington, mentioned in a 1685 Terrier (36), perhaps linked with the Nunnington fuller at Harome.

EXTRACT

YORKSHIRE LAY SUBSIDY

Being a fifteenth collected 30 Edward I (1301)

RYDALE

Harome

|                                  |          |
|----------------------------------|----------|
| De William domino de Haruom..... | xiiis    |
| (1) De Alano le Bouer.....       | iis      |
| (2) De Thoma Sponer.....         | iiid q.  |
| De Alano Newbond'.....           | vid      |
| (3) De Roberto Coco.....         | vid      |
| De Rogero Fox.....               | iis      |
| (4) De Thoma Corbar'.....        | ixd o.q. |
| De Matheo filio Simonis.....     | iis      |
| De Asspelun.....                 | ixd q.   |
| De Johanne del Hey.....          | iis      |
| De Ricardo Fabro.....            | vid o.q. |
| De Willelmo Full'.....           | vd q.    |
| De Amon (e) de Harom.....        | xxid q.  |
| De Hugone Spicer.....            | xviiia   |

Summa                   xxixs viid o.q.

- (1) herdsman
- (2) spinner (?)
- (3) cook
- (4) cordwainer

HEARTH TAX 1673North Riding of Yorkshire - Ryedale WapentakeHARUMNo. of hearths

|                                 |         |
|---------------------------------|---------|
| Mr. Crosland.....               | 8 or 9? |
| Mr. Metcalfe.....               | 5       |
| Rt. Webster.....                | 1       |
| Geo: Smith.....                 | 1       |
| Geo: Anderson.....              | 1       |
| Tho: Dowson.....                | 1       |
| Tho: Wilson.....                | 1       |
| Mich: Wilson.....               | 1       |
| Math: Brabiner.....             | 1       |
| Rd: Hicke.....                  | 1       |
| Tho: Boyes.....                 | 1       |
| Dor: Salmon.....                | 1       |
| Jane Simpson.....               | 1       |
| Jos: Roger.....                 | 1       |
| Alice Smith.....                | 1       |
| Jo: Simpson.....                | 1       |
| Margt: Simpson.....             | 1       |
| Margt: Hicke.....               | 2       |
| Jo: Hagg.....                   | 1       |
| Chr: Wood.....                  | 1       |
| Rd: Wilson.....                 | 2       |
| Hen: Barker.....                | 1       |
| Alice Gray.....                 | 1       |
| Tho: Wilson.....                | 1       |
| Jo: Salmon.....                 | 1       |
| Sim: Mason.....                 | 1       |
| Leo: Edward.....                | 1       |
| Math: Ducke.....                | 1       |
| Dora Pearcy now Tho: Smith..... | 1       |
|                                 | 42      |

These persons following are discharged p.legall Cert.

|                                 |   |
|---------------------------------|---|
| Rt. Hagg.....                   | 1 |
| Wm. Pearcy.....                 | 1 |
| Jo: Harker.....                 | 1 |
| Anne Simpson.....               | 1 |
| Jo: Pearson.....                | 1 |
| Ellis Matson.....               | 1 |
| Margt. Barhead.....             | 1 |
| Mich: Duning.....               | 1 |
| Tho: Snowden.....               | 1 |
| Geo: Spenceley.....             | 1 |
| Ellice Spenceley.....           | 1 |
| Symo: Barker.....               | 1 |
| Dor: Pearcy now Tho: Smith..... | 1 |
| Rt. Barker.....                 | 1 |

14 View'd p. Rt. Sanders  
 Cotto.  
 Rd. Wilson  
 Const.

Footnotes

1. Smith, A., Placenames of the North Riding of Yorkshire, p.70.
2. E. Ekwall, English Placenames, pgs. 218 & 220
3. Victoria County History, History of York, Vol.ii, pgs. 202, 221, 312
4. Rievaulx Chortulary, Surtees Society, vol. 83, p.237
5. Kirkham Priory Charters, Bodleian Fairfax 7. References from BJD Harrison
6. Kirkby's Inquest, Surtees Society, vol. 40, pgs. 114-5.
7. Acknowledgement by defendant that Plaintiff's case is just.
8. Y.A.S. Record Series, vol.21, p.54.
9. VCH, North Riding, vol.i, p.493.
10. Eastmead, Rev. W., Historia Rievallensis, 1824, p.435
11. Thomas Parker, Manuscript, at Ryedale Folk Museum.
12. VCH, op. cit., vol.ii, p.446
13. Smith, op. cit., p.292.
14. D. Whitelock, Beginnings of English Society, p.127.
15. Ekwall, op. cit., pgs. 225-7.
16. Y. A. S. Record Series, vol. 82, pgs. 30-1.
17. On the Helmsley L. S. 1301 William de Yolton paid the considerable sum of 4/9d.
18. Calendar of I. P. M., EDW III, vol. VIII, p.333.
19. Knowles, D.M., The Religious Orders in England, vol. I, p.34.
20. Farrar, Early Yorkshire Charters, vol. I, p.326.
21. Borthwick Institute, Wills, vol. 17, fol.398 and vol.21, fol.457.
22. PRO E. 179/216/462, reference from BJD Harrison.  
Transcribed by Mr. G. Milne.
23. History of Helmsley Rievaulx and District, ed. J. McDonnell, p.444.
24. Ibid, pgs. 451-57.
25. Duncombe Park Estate Records, NYCRO.
26. Eastmead, op. cit., p.433 for illustration of window.
27. In the 15-17th century wills, all burials are at Helmsley.
28. It was not a blacksmith's cottage and so unlikely to be the home of Thomas Picard and the buried treasure!
29. The Fevershams are descendants of the Duncombes.
30. We are grateful to Prof. P. Rahtz for this information..
31. Whellan, History and Topography of York, vol.ii, pgs. 858-9.
32. HMC Rutland, Belvoir Charters, 4163-6.
33. Ibid, Reference from G. Fox.
34. Borthwick Institute, Wills, vols. 13, 15, 22.
35. PRO E179/212/170. Reference from BJD Harrison.
36. Glebe Terrier of Nunnington, Borthwick Institute.

# North Riding emigration and the first families of Virginia

by G.E. Morris (Stonegrave N. Yorks) and Francis Thornton Greene (Warrenton, Virginia)

A short paper, 'The First Families of Virginia', was published in the William and Mary College Quarterly, Historical Magazine, Richmond, Virginia (1). In it Dr. L. G. Tyler lists the names of fifty-seven families. These, he states clearly, are not the names of families of early settlers but of families which, in Colonial times,

'showed continuity of importance by great and continued prominence in local affairs.....'.

An analysis of these names shows that over a third are names of families recorded in the North Riding of Yorkshire during the early Seventeenth Century, a time of rapid development of the settlements in Virginia.(2)

The list of names, given in full in Appendix I, can be divided into four groups : twenty-three cannot yet be traced : nine cannot confidently be placed, either because they are too common nationally or because of wide spelling differences : four are doubtful, two of these being names of places in the North Riding (Corbin, Scarborough) whereas families with these names have not yet been traced.

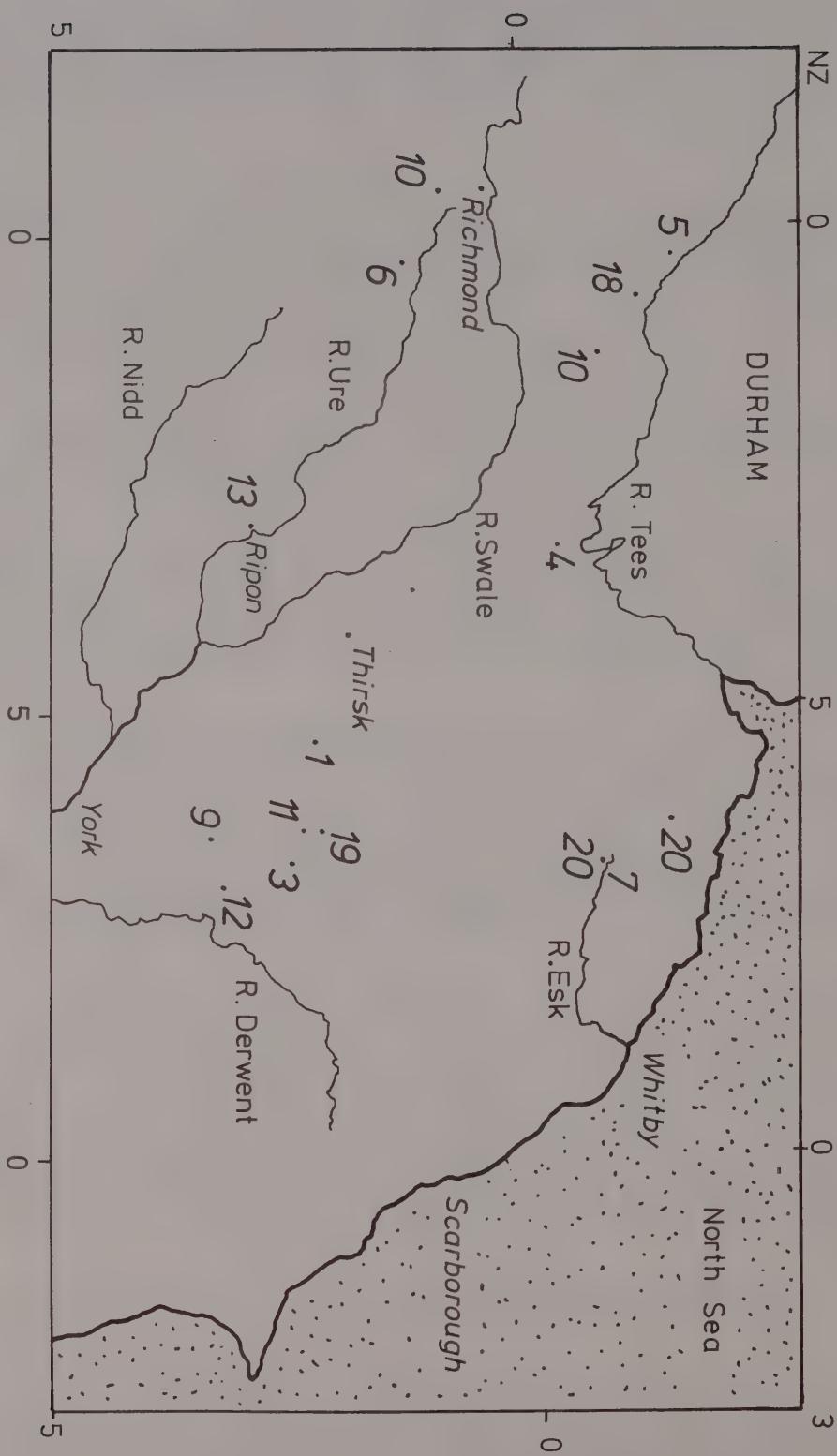
The fourth group contains twenty-one names of families which are recorded in localities in the North Riding or named as being in the area during the first half of the seventeenth century. Some were important in more than one locality. Four were families powerful not only locally but more widely (Berkely, Fitzhugh, Fairfax). Two names, although common, are included because they are those of families recorded as having been in York during the siege (3). The others, with one or two exceptions, were lords of the manor, many with the right to bear arms, a social group varying widely in power, wealth and status but all with territorial links, often of great antiquity, in the North Riding.

It is difficult to trace links between families named in Virginia and families of the same name in the North Riding. Emigrants tend to disappear from the records but it seems that many of those believed to have emigrated were from families with Royalist or episcopalian loyalties. Some had members on both sides: e.g., Fairfax, Beale. But for two families at least, there is a clear link. Jenings of Ripon Hall, Virginia, can be connected with the family that held Ripon Park, North Riding, where Sir Edmund Jenings regained his rights after a legal struggle (4). The link between the Thorntons of Virginia and those of the North Riding is clearer though there is still no written evidence. William Thornton is known to have been in Virginia in 1641 where, according to tradition,

'he established a home near Gloucester Point which he called the 'Hills' for his ancestral home in Yorkshire'

He used the coat of arms of the Thorntons of East Newton and Thornton-on-the-Hill. This armorial link seems as valid as written evidence. Evidence in Appendix III supplements this. He was accompanied in 1642 by Richard Errington (a farming family of that name lived near Brandsby) and men of the names of Rutter, and Braydon, also farmers' names in Ryedale.

# North Yorkshire



DISTRIBUTION MAP SHOWING THE PLACES WHERE THE ESTATES OF FAMILIES  
LISTED IN APPENDIX II WERE SITUATED  
~Numbers refer to the families as listed

miles 0 10 20 30 40 50

Fig.5

The names in the List, given in Appendix I, that are common to Virginia and the North Riding are concentrated in Wensleydale, Swaledale and Ryedale, as the map suggests. There is a strong presumption that many of those who left had Royalist or episcopalian sympathies, and went for their own safety, or because they were so impoverished that their estates could no longer maintain the whole family. Support is lent to this by the motto of the Thorntons of East Newton and Thornton on the Hill:

'Tout pour l'église'.

#### References

1. L. G. Tyler, 'The First Families of Virginia', William and Mary Quart. Hist. Mag., 1915, reprinted Times Dispatch, 1985.
2. Victoria County Hist. of Yorkshire, North Riding Vol.ii
3. P. Wenham, The Great and Close Siege of York, 1644, Warwick 1970
4. I. J. Gentles and W. J. Sheils, Confiscation and Restoration: The Archbishops' Estates and the Civil War, Borthwick Paper no. 59, York 1981.
5. Virginia Heraldica, Vol.V, ed. W. A. Crozier, New York, 1948.

I wish to thank the many friends both here and in Virginia and the Eastern States for help and information. Information on this subject is scattered and not easy to assemble. This paper is written to draw attention to the part North Riding emigrants have played in the history of Virginia. Further evidence from either side of the Atlantic would be welcomed..

#### Appendix I

This is a list of the First Families of Virginia published in the paper of that title (1). Underlined are those also included in App.II.

|                          |                              |                                |
|--------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Allerton                 | <u>Custis</u>                | <u>Nelson</u>                  |
| Armistead                | <u>Cole</u>                  | <u>Page</u>                    |
| Ballard                  | <u>Dawson</u>                | <u>Perry</u>                   |
| <u>Bassett</u>           | <u>Digges</u>                | <u>Parke</u>                   |
| Beale                    | <u>Eppes</u>                 | <u>Randolph</u>                |
| <u>Berkely</u>           | <u>Farrar</u>                | <u>Robinson</u>                |
| <u>Beverly</u>           | <u>Fitzhugh</u>              | <u>Scarborough</u>             |
| Blair                    | <u>Fairfax</u>               | <u>Smith of Gloucester Co.</u> |
| <u>Bland</u>             | <u>Gooch</u>                 | <u>Spotswood</u>               |
| Bray                     | <u>Grymes</u>                | <u>Tayloe</u>                  |
| Brider                   | <u>Harrison</u>              | <u>Thorowgood</u>              |
| Browne of Four Mile Tree | <u>Jenings of Ripon Hall</u> | <u>Thornton</u>                |
| <u>Burwell</u>           | <u>Kemp</u>                  | <u>Warner</u>                  |
| Byrd                     | <u>Lewis</u>                 | <u>West</u>                    |
| Carter                   | <u>Littleton</u>             | <u>Whiting</u>                 |
| <u>Cary</u>              | <u>Ludwell</u>               | <u>Willoughby</u>              |
| Churchill                | <u>Lee</u>                   | <u>Willis</u>                  |
| Claiborne                | <u>Lightfoot</u>             | <u>Wormeley</u>                |
| Corbin                   | <u>Mathews</u>               | <u>Yardley</u>                 |

## Appendix II

Family names that can be traced to the North Riding of Yorkshire in the first half of the Seventeenth Century. These are the names of families, not individuals. Some families had more than one branch in the Riding.

| <u>Name</u>    | <u>Status</u> | <u>Place</u>          | <u>Comments</u>                             |
|----------------|---------------|-----------------------|---|
| 1. Bassett     | coat of arms  | Byland                |   |
| 2. Beale       | knight        | York                  | tenant farmer                               |
| 3. Berkely     | viscount      | Hovingham             |   |
| 4. Beverly     | Ld. of manor  | Great Smeaton         | brief ownership.                            |
| 5. Bland       | Ld. of manor  | Startforth            | sold manor, 1656                            |
| 6. Burwell     | tenant        | West Witton           |   |
| 7. Cary        | coat of arms  | Stanghow, Danby       | of Swinithorne Hall<br>connected with No.20 |
| 8. Cole        | Ld. of manor  | Wensleydale           | in York during siege                        |
| 9. Dawson      | coat of arms  | Farlington            | associated with Grace                       |
| 10. Fitzhugh   | coat of arms  | Askrigg, Ravensworth  | also Sheriff Hutton                         |
| 11. Fairfax    | viscount      | Gilling               | old, powerful family                        |
| 12. Gooch      |               | Bulmer                | powerful family with                        |
| 13. Jenings    | knight        | Ripon                 | members on both sides                       |
| 14. Kemp       | coat of arms  | Sowerby, Kirkby Wiske | associated with Fairfax                     |
| 15. Mathews    | 'stranger'    | York                  | estates confiscated.                        |
| 16. Nelson     | lieutenant    | York                  | house in York                               |
| 17. Parke      |               | Swaledale             | son bapt. in siege                          |
| 18. Robinson   | coat of arms  | Rokeby, Whitestone    | buried there in siege                       |
| 19. Thornton   | coat of arms  | E.Newton              |   |
| 20. Willoughby | coat of arms  | Danby, Guisborough    | Parliamentarians                            |
|                |               |                       | Royalist.                                   |
|                |               |                       | In Virginia, 1641                           |
|                |               |                       | powerful family                             |

## Note

Lightfoot      farmers near Brandsby, c. 1600

## Appendix III

The following names are those of people in a boat belonging to William Pryor, Gent., who took them in 1642 inland down Pryors Creek, Virginia : - John Perrin, Grace, Joane Easter, Richard Errington, Gregory Bass, Michell Sanders, William Thorneton, Tho. Kingswell, Alex Wike, Tho. Gumer (or Gunner), John Rutter, William James, John Wood, Edward Braydon, William Johnson, Henry Goodgaine, Thomas Jervis and Robert Kingbury. Of these the following names are known locally: Errington (farmers near Brandsby) Grace (associated with Coles family, 1661); Thorneton (see 19) ; Wike (N. Yorks. coastal name) ; Rutter (name still found in Ryedale) ; Wood (farmer near Ripon) ; Braydon (farmers in Ryedale) ; Jervis (named after the Abbey, Wensleydale).

(Information supplied by R. J. Thornton of New York State)

# The Franks : a yeoman family of Hutton-Le-Hole

by Bert Frank

## PART II

(The first part of this account closed with a consideration of the will of John Frank, who died in 1587. Thereafter parish registers, tax returns, the Hutton Enclosure Award and other records make it easier to follow the fortunes of the family.)

In his will John Frank had expressed the hope that his two eldest sons, Robert and John, would protect and care for the younger children. This does not always seem to have worked out as he would have wished. In 1596 there was a legal dispute between Robert and his younger brother, George. We do not know the result of this action, but it concerned a messuage with land in Hutton and Spaunton - probably Lund House, where the Hutton-Spaunton township boundary actually runs through the farm buildings.

The year before this lawsuit Robert had married Christabel Appleby. They had five children:

---

|        |        |         |          |        |
|--------|--------|---------|----------|--------|
| Isobel | Robert | William | Nicholas | Grace  |
| b.1601 | b.1605 | b.1606  | b.1608   | b.1610 |

Isobel's is the very first entry in the baptismal registers of Lastingham, the parish church of Hutton. These registers are very incomplete during the early part of the seventeenth century, but they do also record the marriage of George Frank, the plaintiff in the 1596 case, to Marie Robinson in 1602.

Little eventful is recorded during the lives of Robert and George, or of their children. But their grandchildren were to experience a major event in the history of the village - the enclosure and parcelling up of all the common arable fields of the township.

### The Three Great Fields

The tithe map shows clearly where lay the land that had been communally farmed until the seventeenth century. Hutton lies in a hollow, but on either side is a plateau of good limestone land. The Great West Field stretches from Hutton Bunk Top to Hutton Nab on the west of the village, with two smaller units, Barmoor and 'The Ridings', to north and south. On the east an even larger tract of land was divided into two, the Riccal or Righill Field on the north, and the Burran Field on the south. All three fields are connected to the village by deep hollow ways which have been worn into the earth by the feet of successive generations of oxen, on their journeys between stall and arable field.

### Enclosure

The Hutton Enclosure Award in North Yorkshire County Record Offices is officially dated 1761. However internal evidence indicates that this date - presumably that of the formal approval of the new arrangements by the Court of Chancery - is nearly a century later than the actual re-apportionment of the common fields. Indeed a note (in a different hand to the main text) on fol. 3 explicitly states that 'this Inclosure was effected in the Years 1670, 1671, and 1672'. So the document provides a good deal of useful information about the village people in the latter seventeenth century, with the old family names well to the fore, as the following extracts show.

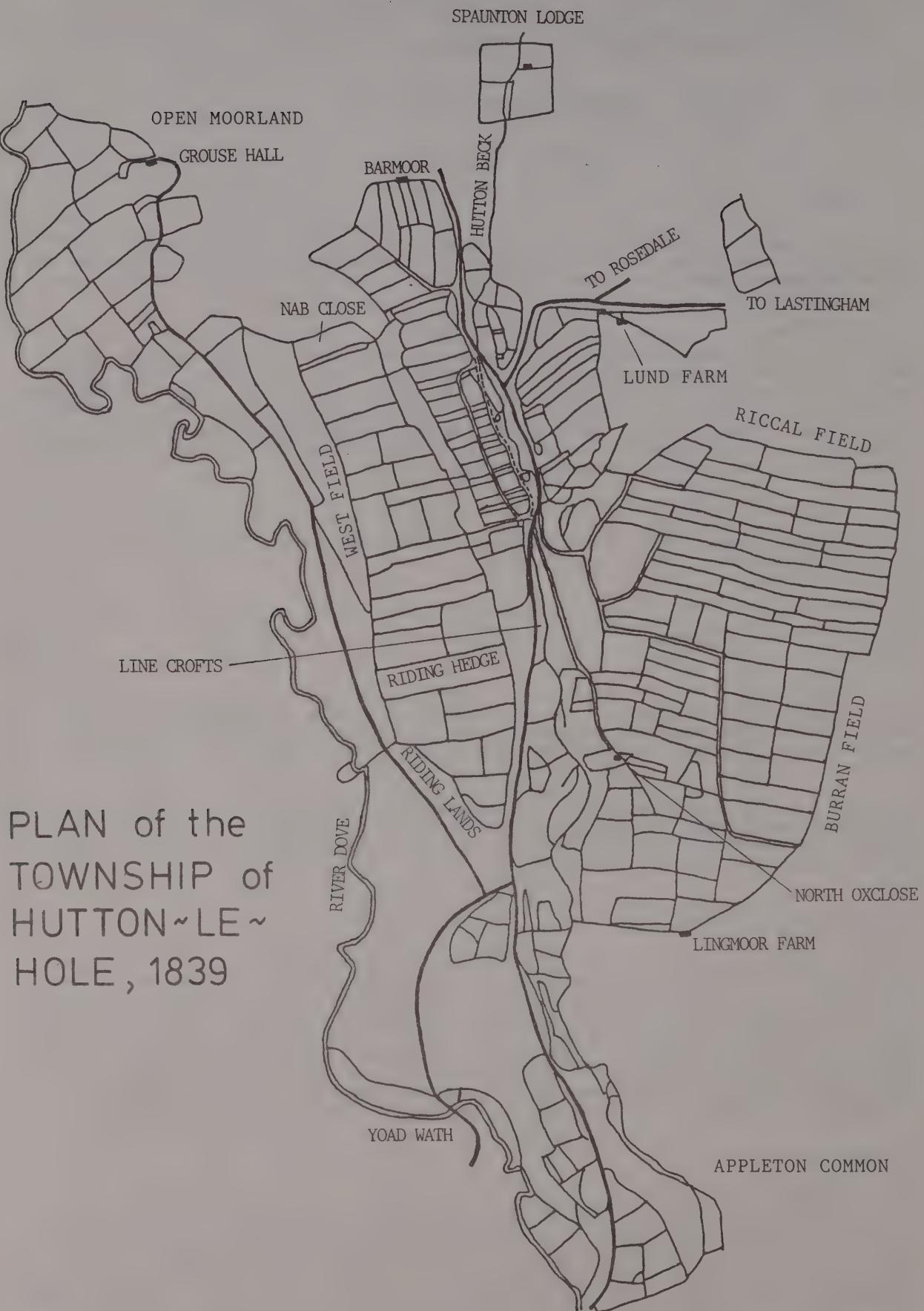


Fig. 6

"We the Freeholders, Leaseholders and Tennants, of the land, both Arable, Meadow and Pasture, in the Occupation of Hutton-le-Hole, send greetings. Know ye that we....and our Ancestors before us, have heretofore long time holden our Land in Mixtures and common, so that we have been forced to take and Estate the Profits there of our Grounds and Lands within the said Township...., with and among each other Promiscously which has occasioned inconveniences Suites and Troubles among us.... Now ...for the future and for the better quieting of our Estates, we....thought meet and convenient to divide all our Lands which ly in common, so that every of us....may have....their Estates and Lands, in full and apart from another, Quantity and quality considered, in setting out of the several lands...."

Commissioners, an attorney and a surveyor were nominated, and the parties to the award bound themselves 'in the sum of Forty pounds a piece, not to fly from this our Consent and Agreement, at any time hereafter'. Forty pounds was a huge sum for a tenant to raise, but no doubt credit was arranged, and the money was safe so long as the covenant was kept.

The Commissioners began their award with the Burran Field, which included Oxclose, of which more later. They first set out the lanes or principal tracks that the new owners could use to get from their homesteads in the village to their own parcels of land as set out by the Commissioners. They are also told which fences, gates or stiles each one has to erect.

The Commissioners also "order and appoint a loning from Burran-Field gate through Linecroft, and up at the Waite ends going along to Francis Johnsons fall in the new Close....Secondly we do order and appoint another Lane leading from Righilfield gate up the Bank going or leading on Burranfield over the Top on the Middle leading unto Far Burrangate, for Carts and Carriages."

In the same way the access lanes are subsequently set out for the West Field of the township:

"First we do appoint that the way for Cart and Carriage only from the Field called Riding be continued along that old way heretofore used from thence to the Town of Hutton with free egress and regress to and from the same. ....The way for Cart and Carriage for the South Moyety of the West Field....(be).... along the Brow in that old wain way....and from thence so along into the way there leading down the Brow into the Howl way and so along into the New lane down into the Kings Street, or Town Street on the East...And that every person as hereafter appointed do hand or set Sufficient wain gates or Stoops and rails along the Brow, and down the old way to the Howl way foot, whose fence shall cross these ways. And that there be a lane two polls wide from the Howl way foot to the old Wain Yeat....at the South end of the Town.....

We do further allot and appoint that the way...for the North Moiety of the West Field....(be)....down the Old way there used into the Ground of ...Richard Bowlby, and so....down the old wain way there; leading down the Brow to the Crofts Heads, on the East, so along that way to the Ground hereafter allotted the said Richard Bowlby in the Flat called the Bown Town Flatt and so along that grown (d) to the old gate called the Bown Town Yeat or gate, and so into the ....Town Street... And that that old gate called the Bown Town gate be for ever hereafter maintained by Richard Bowlby and his assigns...

We do further order and appoint that every person whose

fence shall cross that old way, or footpath leading to and from the Stile on the west side of the Barmer, leading into the Lands here after allotted John Frank...do make sufficient Stiles over these fences near that old path or foot way...to and from the said Town of Hutton."

All the lanes mentioned can be traced on the map, and the position of the old waingates can be seen. Having set out the lines of communication, the Commissioners allocate to each owner his share of the land, and he is told where it is and what fences, gates and stiles he must erect and maintain.

Two other documents of about the same period ( Hearth Tax 1660-70 : poll tax for the French War 1674 ) confirm the evidence of names in the enclosure award as belonging to the second half of the seventeenth century. The Frank family figures quite prominently. Two Johns ('the Elder' and 'the Younger' of the award), Richard and Thomas were house-holders at the time of the hearth tax, and all but John the Younger had dwellings with two hearths rather than just one. By 1674 adult Franks liable to the poll tax numbered seven: Alice, William, Thomas, Elizabeth, another William, Merill, and another Thomas. All of them paid the basic shilling, the only residents of Hutton who paid more being the Shepherds of Douthwaite ; they had also been exceptional in the hearth tax returns for having more than two hearths in their dwellings.

Before the enclosure of the common fields, three Franks, out of 31 tenants in the township, had held their shares of rigs spread about in the open fields. John the Elder had 16 acres in Oxclose Field and a further 30 in Burran Field. John the Younger had 47 acres in Oxclose Field and 14 in Righill Field. Robert had just 6 acres in Righill Field - a mere smallholding. Between the three of them they farmed 113 acres, and had 'beastgates' in the village pastures in proportion.

After the enclosure, John the Elder's holding was reduced to 11 acres grouped in Burran Field. John the Younger had 25 acres in Burmoor and Righill Field. Robert increased his allotment to 48 acres, all in Burran Field. And now Thomas Frank, previously without land, had 50 acres spread about in West Field, Linecroft, Barmoor, Boontown Flatt and Righill Field. It can be seen therefore that at this stage enclosure was still far from creating single, compact holdings for everybody. The exception was Robert Frank who now had his much increased share concentrated in Burran Field. This holding was undoubtedly the nucleus of Oxclose Farm. The homestead here had a datestone built into the wall above the front door bearing the date 1708. This is probably the date of a rebuilding on the old site. The initials on the datestone appear to refer to another John Frank who died in 1761, and his wife Ann who died two years earlier, in 1759. This John would be the grandson of the Robert Frank who was the first man to gather his various parcels of land into one compact, fenced-in block.

By the time of Robert's grandchildren the parish registers are supplying more details of domicile, unlike earlier entries which simply recorded individuals as 'of Hutton', 'of Kirby Moorside', etc. Ann Frank's death in 1759 brings the first mention of Oxclose as her home. The next century shows the family continuously resident there :

- 1761 John Frank of Oxclose, farmer, died.
- 1787 Edward, son of Thomas Frank of Oxclose, died of smallpox.
- 1788 Nancy, daughter of Thomas Frank, gentleman, of Oxclose, died aged 23.

1789 Thomas Frank, gentleman, of Oxclose, died aged 67.  
 1793 25 people died of smallpox in this year, including Thomas, son of James Frank of Oxclose.  
 1809 Catherine, widow of Thomas Frank, late of Oxclose, died aged 73.  
 1836 James Frank of Lastingham, retired farmer from Oxclose, died aged 77.  
 1855 James Frank, infant, of Oxclose, buried 4th Feb.

(Note the rise in status of Thomas to 'gentleman')

#### Lund House Farm

While the descendants of an earlier Robert Frank continued at Oxclose Farm, another branch of the family was established, as noted at the end of Part I of this account, at Lund House on the north-east fringe of the village. The inventory of fields liable to tithe listed in the 1839 commutation of tithes document shows the shape and size of this holding at that date. Thomas Frank of Lund House farmed a total of 58 acres. 16 of them were moor closes or intakes within Hutton township; most of his arable, five grass fields, and 'a steep bank between the moor and Riccal Head' described as wood and waste, amounting to 31 acres, lay on the Spaunton side of the township boundary. In addition he rented ten acres in Hutton from James Gowland, including three more arable fields in the old Riccal field.

The parish registers confirm the presence of Franks here from the late eighteenth century to the beginning of the twentieth. There was a short period at the end of the eighteenth century when the farm passed into other hands. An earlier Thomas Frank had married Catherine Edwards in 1759. Thirty years later he died, leaving three children, another Thomas, James and Mary (see genealogy). For some reason the younger Thomas, then aged 27, was not available to take over the holding, and the lease was assumed by his maternal grandfather, Robert Edwards, yeoman, of Hutton. The latter's will made and proved in 1794 bequeathed to young Thomas not only the leasehold of Lund but also Edwards's house in Lastingham and the freehold of three moor closes and four intakes. Provision was also made for an annuity of ten pounds to the widowed Catherine Frank, for her other children, and for 'my trusty servant Hannah Frank'. The grandson, Thomas, was appointed sole executor.

Thereafter the family continued in possession until the last Frank of Lund House, Richard, gave up the farm after the death of his wife Elizabeth in 1901, and settled in a house he owned at the north end of the Backlane in Hutton, called the Mount. Richard died there in 1919, and his son Thomas remained in this house until 1960. Shortly after, his family sold the property and moved out of the village, though they still visit their old haunts now and again.

#### The Weavers

We can now recognise three principal branches of the Frank family those occupying Lund House, descendants of the Robert Frank who was the main beneficiary of the will of his father John in 1585 - those at Oxclose carved out of the Burran Field in the seventeenth century; and a third branch living in the village itself and apparently working the smallholding originally rented by the sixteenth-century John to provide for his younger children (see Part I of this memoir). The family tree shows that other Franks established themselves in Farndale during the seventeenth century.

THE FRANKS OF HUTTON-LE-HOLE

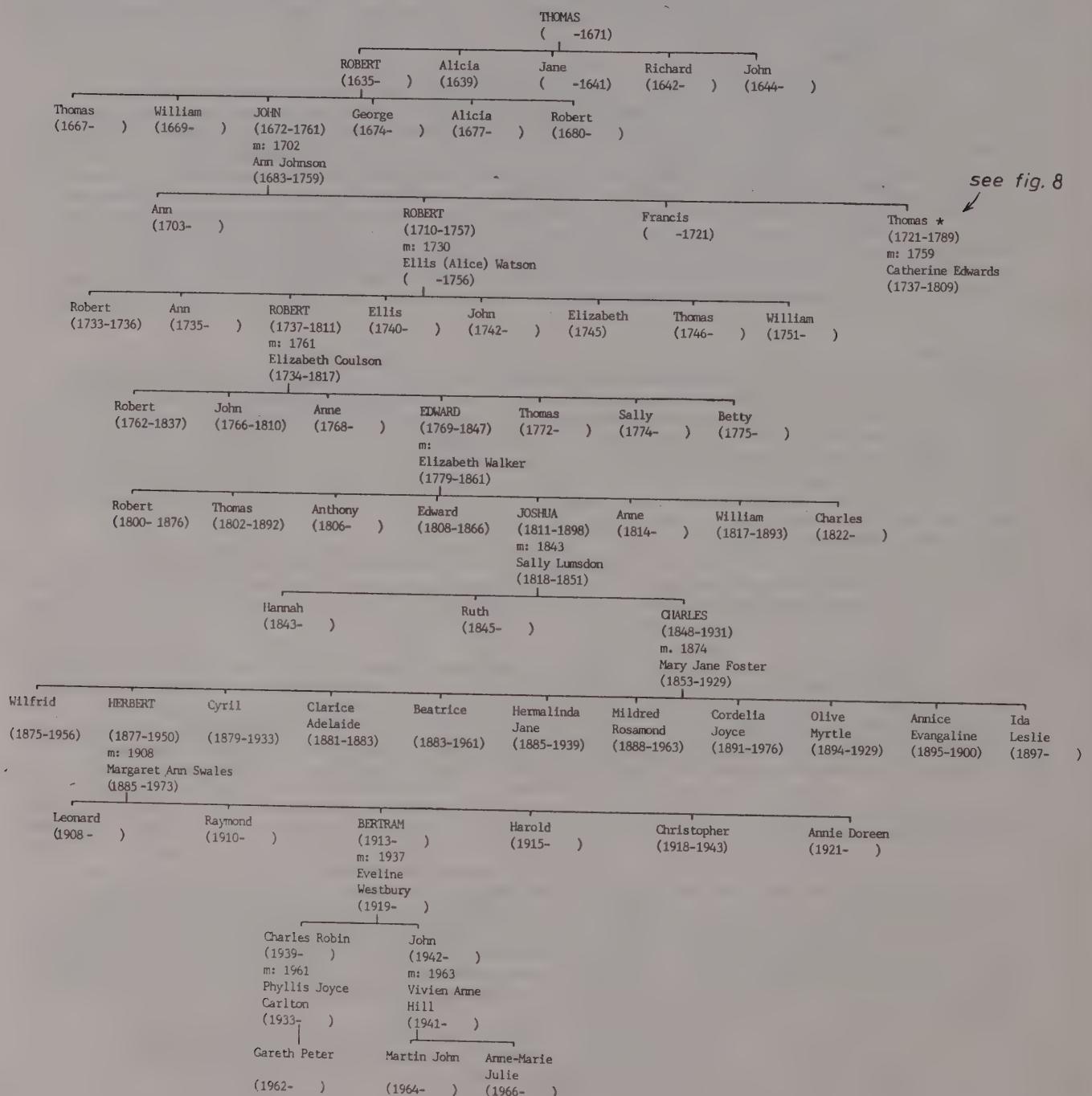


Fig. 7

## THE FRANKS OF OXCLOSE AND LUND FARMS

see fig. 7

THOMAS \*  
(1721-1789)  
m: 1759  
Catherine Edwards  
(1737-1809)

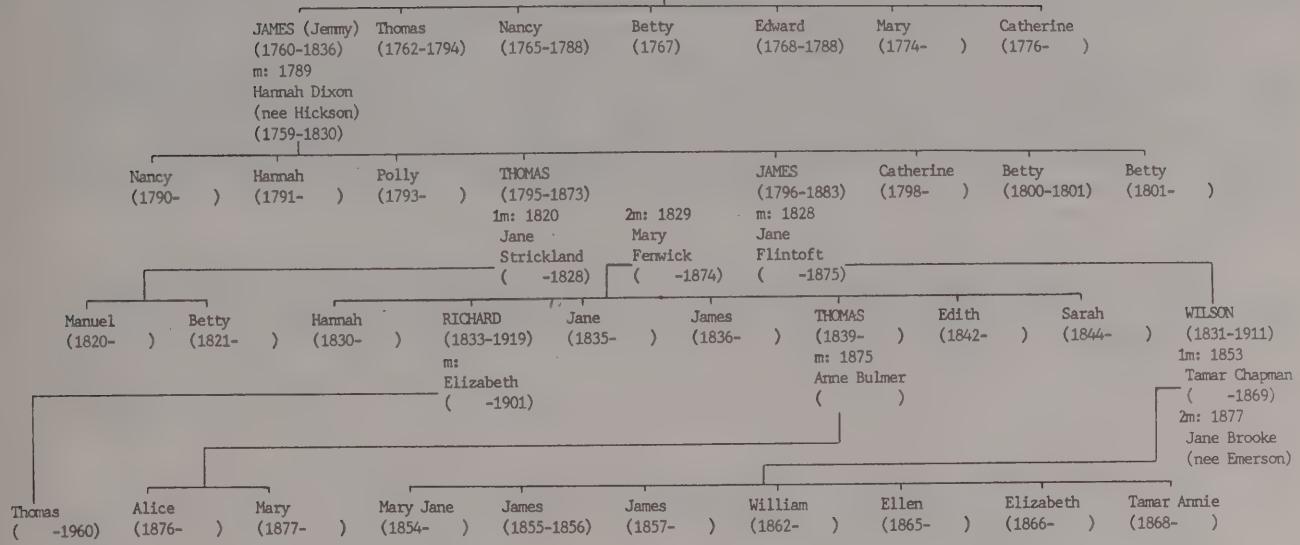


Fig. 8

A Building Site and Draftsman's Office No. 2

Score and Draft to start back with one slope.  $\frac{6}{3}$

Letter No. 11. <sup>3</sup> Leaf twigs will  
for rabbit. May 8: 1841. Thos. H. Strong-

4 Leaf tie  
Drabitt twill  
July 2-1861

## WEAVING PATTERNS

Board *Willingdon* *Hancey*

1/25/6

This to be Drawn Once a Year.

6  
正

While Lund House and Oxclose provided a reasonable living for their freehold or leasehold occupiers, times were harder for the descendants of the cadet branch, and they increasingly turned to the craft of weaving for a living. Linen-weaving was a wide-spread industry in various parts of Yorkshire in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, as far inland as Knaresborough, with local supplies of flax (remember the Linecroft in Hutton itself) being augmented by imports from the Baltic.

Two of Edward Frank's children, Thomas (born 1802) and Edward (born 1808), went into partnership as weavers on their own account. Besides learning the craft at home, Thomas worked, in his early twenties, for a Pickering weaver, J. Garbut of Eastgate. About 1827 he and Edward established a weaving shed behind the shop in Hutton, facing the green near where the Folk Museum now stands. A loom existed here as late as the 1890s, for it was remembered by people who lived in the early part of the twentieth century.

Both brothers kept a book, and on the front page of each is the date 1829. The entries show that by then they were weaving cloth and selling their products to local people.

Thomas's book is really a collection of weaving patterns, and on the front page is written:

'Thomas Frank, Book. January 2nd 1829,  
Hutton-le-Hole  
A Tie and Draft Book.'

Then follows an index

|                             |       |                           |    |
|-----------------------------|-------|---------------------------|----|
| Plain Cloth                 | No. 1 | A Plain Diaper            | 19 |
| A Clutin (Clouting)         | 2     | A Drill                   | 20 |
| A Fine Huckback             | 3     | A Duble Coverlid          | 21 |
| A Tick                      | 4     | A Diaper                  | 22 |
| A Drill                     | 5     | A Dimin                   | 23 |
| A common Drill              | 6     | The Evening Stare         | 24 |
| A Drill                     | 7     | Loard Wellington Fancey   | 25 |
| A Drill in 3 leaves         | 8     | The Plains of Waterloo    | 26 |
| A Dandy Drill               | 9     | Loard Moulgrove Fancey    | 27 |
| A Diaper The Weavers Profit | 10    | The Weaver Proffit        | 28 |
| A Diaper                    | 11    | A Diaper a Paliss         | 29 |
| A Drill in Ten              | 12    | A Sattan in 15 leaves     | 30 |
| A Ovhil Diman               | 13    | The Instructor to Work by | 31 |
| A Diaper                    | 14    | A Fancey Flous            | 32 |
| A Fance Diaper              | 15    | The Great Circle          | 33 |
| A n' Waves (sic)            | 16    | The Diamns und Star       | 34 |
| Duble Bird Eye              | 17    | A Diaper Runin Diamns     | 35 |
| A Diaper                    | 18    |                           |    |

(Note: the individual pattern labels do not always correspond exactly with these titles - see illustrated examples )(Fig.9 ).

There follow diagrammatic patterns, set out in a very workmanlike way. Above the first, very simple, pattern is written:

How plain and Easey it is to Them that Know  
And he that wants to larn 'May hear Look Below

No. 2's title is expanded to 'A Clutin Tie and Draft in 5 Leaves and No. 3 to 'A Tie and Draft to work Huckback With one Blow', It is in fact an instruction book, such as an apprentice would require on taking up weaving.

Various notes and comments are entered on many of these pages. 'Top lambs, for instance, describe a part of the loom. Under No.9 comes the comment 'A fine Strong Twill on my Plan. All right. In to the Middle with boath Feet'. Thomas seems to work out his own patterns and give them names, like the Ovhil Dimins' (Oval Diamonds?), and adds comments on particular patterns, as with No. 19 : 'This is a Sutfull and Profitfull Rison Shave, A Inprove of mine'. He continued to use his book until at least 1843, often inserting new patterns, notes of commissions, and occasional rhyming thoughts, no doubt the product of hours working at his loom. Thus on the back of Nos. 6 and 7 he has drawn patterns for 'Drabitt tie and Draft in 6 Leaves and 3 Leaf twill tick', and two twills, dated 1841. A year earlier he notes a big job completed : 'A Carpit 27½ yds Long it was Laid 24 yds and a Trum by String Yards and Caim out 27½yds - The Web wen weaved whied 2 Stone - Nigh 3 Quarters Wid - In 8 leaves and 10 Treades - oring and Black twisted at Saithe and Spunn at the Mill 6 a Pound Weaved in the Blankit Slay 14 Set For - Garbutt Pickering - October 27.'

This is interesting for we find Thomas still weaving at Hutton in 1840, but apparently taking on jobs for his old master who, though still in business, is either too busy or perhaps too old and infirm by this time. In the following year Thomas draws three new patterns on an empty page (see illustration 2), and in 1842 he notes an order 'For a bed rug. Dubble Bird eye. 15 Pound will make 9 yds or More. Yard wide 2 in a Reed. Watson Rosedale Oct. 13.'

Similar orders followed, and by the year of the Great Exhibition at the Crystal Palace, 1851, Thomas was able to put some of his handiwork on display there. The story passed down in the family is that he visited the exhibition accompanied by his brother Joshua and travelling by stage coach, even though by then the railway offered a swifter, but perhaps more expensive, means of travel.

The great family bible records his death : 'Thomas Frank died Feb.8, 1892.' So he lived to the ripe old age of 90. He was remembered by those who lived in the early part of this century. Cora Frank, his great-grand-niece, still living in 1971, often recalled stories of his doings at the shop, and her sister Beatrice remembers his loom still standing behind the shop at his death. At the latter end of his time he still did a little weaving, and a piece of material woven by him is in possession of the family. We also have a photograph of him sitting in front of the shop, looking remarkably young, below a sign-board bearing the one word FRANK. The shop window displays objects that he sold, including various bottles, packets, a pair of stockings, and what looks like a bill advertising some event.

His brother Edward shared the cottage facing the green, and also kept a book. He seems to have been more business-like than Thomas, or at least kept careful accounts for 1829, perhaps for both of them. Among their customers were the Shepherds of Douthwaite, who placed orders for up to 60 yards of 'sherting', cost 12/9d. Even at that stage in their business life, woven goods were apparently not their only trade. Edward enters, for example:

|                |                       |      |
|----------------|-----------------------|------|
| 'David Holroyd | 1 gross of pipes      | 3.0  |
| Robert Cooper  | to 18 pipes           | 6.   |
| ...            |                       |      |
| David Holroyd  | to one gross of pipes | 3.0. |
|                | tobacco 11d.          |      |
|                | wrappers 9d.          | 1.8. |

Evidently the weaving shed was already becoming a village shop. This was perhaps inevitable ; the cottage was central, the brothers were already selling their own wares to local people, and it would be natural for them to stock wool for knitting, tobacco and clay pipes.

Edward also seems to have acquired some odd pharmaceutical knowledge. Perhaps he had the confidence of some old farrier or wiseman, for he records in his book various remedies to cure ailments in horses or humans, several rat-poisons (and two complicated ways 'To Take Rats Alive'). Examples are :

#### Markham Balls (for horses)

Equal parts: Cummin Seeds Powd.  
Flour Sulpher  
Diapente  
Turmerac  
Liquorice powd.  
Elicampane  
Anniseeds  
Long peper  
Sweet Oil  
30 drops oil anniseeds  
Treacle sufficient to make it to a mass. Make it into 8 balls and give 1 every morning. If the horse has a cough add 1 oz. Balls Sulphur.

#### For the Itch

1½ drams Sublimate  
2 do. Crude Salamonicac.  
Put into a Pint cold Spring water and wash your Elbow joints, Hams, under your arms and your joints prinsiple.

Edward seems to have abandoned the weaving shed in the 1850s, perhaps after their youngest brother, Charles, joined Thomas at work there. Two bills of 1857 show that Edward paid to Lord Feversham sums of nearly £20 each for loads of 7 tons of larch bark. This seems to show that he was now connected with leather tanning ; we know that there was a tannery at Hutton about this time.

#### The Gawber Poet

Mention must also be made of Thomas and Edward's eldest brother Robert. Born in 1800, he married in 1824 Mary Stockill of Helmsley, and in the following year moved first to York to work as a weaver, and then to the Barnsley area, where he lived the rest of his life, establishing a reputation both as a 'fancy weaver' and as 'the Gawber Poet'. A volume of his verse, entitled 'Native Poetry' was published in Barnsley in 1869, 'comprising both Sentimental and Satirical Poems and Songs'. One poem, looking back fondly on his youthful home, is worth quoting:

#### MY NATIVITY

When I reflect on time's old page,  
Every day increase my age;  
But while I live I still may tell,  
In Hutton-le-Hole once did dwell.  
'Twas in this village I was born,  
The sun at first upon me shone ;  
'Twas then to me a lovely spot.  
My shelter was my father's cot,  
Where I did play with childish toys,  
Among a lot of rustic boys;  
It was here I was sent to school,  
Or went to fish in yonder pool;  
...Then sport and play with others, when  
Griefs and sorrows I knew not then;  
Then play a game with fives and ball,  
And send the ball against the wall.

At cricket, too, when I did play,  
I lov'd to strike the ball away;  
At other games I played as well,  
Sometimes a match at knur and spell,  
Or what we called at dab and shell:  
...Then ramble through the woods at will,  
And clamber up the steepest hill;  
When on the top would then look down,  
And view at once my native town;  
Then fix my eyes on father's cot,  
That stood as well as all the lot.  
...Remember once when on the moor,  
When there came a thunder shower,  
My mother too was then with me,  
When the moor became a sea,  
And washed away my father's wall;  
Then swept away the bridges all,  
Tremendous stones was made to roll,  
'Gainst the current had no control.  
...So swift my time it flies away,  
When I look back, 'tis but a day.  
These forty years I've been away,  
And mem'ry still with me remain  
To trace my childhood o'er again

A note appended to these verses explains that they 'were written while paying a visit to my native village, and recited at the conclusion of my lecture ...on the subject of the Mental and Physical Existence of Man, and my hearers were so excited and animated that I had to repeat it, they were so enamoured with my poetry.'

Robert sent a copy of his Native Poetry to Queen Victoria, and in a dedication to her (P. 14 of the volume) remarks that 'I have suffered great privations for these last four years, being a fancy weaver by trade or occupation, and my adversity is purely brought on by the American War. And still I continue to write my Poems...'.

#### Village Cricket

All three branches of the Frank family were keen on playing cricket, as Robert recalled in his poem. We have various photographs of village teams. The oldest is dated 1882 and represents eighteen players : Mark Stephenson, William Ellerby, Wilson Frank (of Oxclose), M. Brokes, Robert Ellerby, Wilson Ellerby, J. Atkinson, J. Bowes, Tom Bowes, M. Stead, George Baxter, R. Sawdon, J. Pilmoor, R. Boyes, Charles Frank (the Hutton shopkeeper), R. Allen, J. Smithson, and James Frank (of Oxclose). The Ellerby members were from Wheatends Farm, Oxclose. The next photograph, taken by H. Pexton of Scarborough in the early years of the present century, shows the Hutton village Eleven: standing - Walker Flintoft, M. Robinson, William Ellerby, H. Storey, Herbert Frank, W. Strickland, Walker Garbut: seated - Charles Jackson, Tom Pullens, F. Stephenson, Ernest Handly. It will be noticed that the Ellerby family still had a member playing, and that number five at the back is Herbert Frank, son of Charles, the shopkeeper of the 1882 photo. A third photo, taken in the summer of 1913, shows two teams of cricketers, the Hutton village team and their opponents, a team assembled by Mr. B.L. Dorman (of the Dorman and Long firm), who used to come to Spaunton Lodge each summer for the grouse-shooting season, and who gave a good deal of employment to those who were out of work. Mr. Dorman was very keen on cricket and made a good pitch in one of the fields in front of Spaunton Lodge. Because the field was on a slope he had to bank up the low side of the wicket area to make it level. This embankment can still be seen today. A similar method was used to construct a cricket pitch on the open moorland above Hutton for the use of the village team. It was situated about a quarter of a mile north of Lund House Farm, at a point 100 yards north-west of the junction of the Spaunton Lodge road with the Rosedale Bank road. Only the wicket area was grass; the outfield was covered with heather which was burnt off now and again. The moor sheep kept the grass short, and the only treatment the pitch received was a good rolling before a match with a heavy stone roller which was kept nearby and was used as a seat by the scorer.

### Joshua Frank and 'Fish Willie'

This memoir may suitably end with a note on two other brothers of the weavers Thomas and Edward. Life in Hutton was not, of course, all cricket and sunshine. By the 1830s the days of the handloom weaver were clearly numbered, and even while Thomas continued to work at his loom his youngest brother, Charles, was developing the shop side of the family business. Their brother, Joshua, great-grandfather of the present writer, born in 1811, does not seem to have followed the weaving trade at all. In the parish register which records his burial in 1898 his occupation was given as 'Badger'. This is an old name for a huckster and means a dealer who travels round the countryside buying butter, eggs, poultry etc. and selling them at markets. On the occasion of his death, the Vicar wrote an appreciative note on the passing 'of our oldest parishioner': 'Mr. Frank was a member of the Primitive Methodist Body, and was an earnest and devout Christian, He brought up his children in the habit of prayer night and morning, praying with them and for them. His motto was that of his famous namesake : "As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord" - Joshua xxiv, 15.'

By the time his brother William was born, in 1817, there could have been no question of his earning his living as a weaver. Family tradition states that as a young man he lived for some years on the coast, either at Whitby or Staithes, though later he lived at the shop in Hutton with Thomas. Having spent so much of his youth among fishermen, it is not surprising to find him making his living by buying fish at Staithes, bringing it to Hutton by horse and cart and selling it in neighbouring communities.

Unlike the other brothers, William led a rather wild life, and was fond of whisky and rum - a habit also perhaps developed among sea-going folk, who could still in those days come by duty-free spirits. There is a note made by Joshua on the back cover of his bible on the 24th March 1851 : 'Total Abstinence Witness, Wm. Frank'. But any reformation did not, apparently, last long. There was a suggestion that 'Fish Willie', as he was known, made more money selling duty-free liquor than selling fish. The story of his end, as told in the family, was that coming from Staithes one night, at the considerable age of 77, he drank so much that somewhere on the Blakey Ridge road he fell with his throat across the rim of one of the fish barrels. When his horses arrived in Hutton, driverless, Fish Willie was dead.

Some years ago I was looking through the contents of an old box, which had belonged to my grandfather many years ago. My aunts would not allow me to bring it away but I could spend as much time as I liked examining the contents.

It was an Aladdin's cave of material on local history and my own family, including deeds, photos, notebooks, the hand-made book of weaving patterns dated 1828 (owner Thomas Frank) and a second of the same date owned by his brother Edward ; also a book of poems by Robert Frank, born 1800.

As for the present generation of Franks, this consisted of the author, Bert, his four brothers and one sister, who have all lived in these parts. For some years the boys formed a crucial part of Hutton's cricketing eleven. They followed traditional livelihoods, involved in farming and joinery, and myself in due course in the Ryedale Folk Museum. I like to think that the background to my family outlined in these pages helped to provide me with the motive to found the Ryedale Folk Museum which really for me has been a celebration of our roots in this community and among these dales.

# The Rievaulx Abbey Woolhouse remains at Laskill

by John McDonnell

The existence of a monastic woolhouse at Laskill (SE 563907), at the southern end of Bilsdale, has gone largely unrecognised. Survivals of such wool-stores are rare, even on the Continent, and there is very little documentation in this country. Within Yorkshire as a whole R. A. Donkin (1) notes only a Meaux Abbey lanaria at Wawne 'built of stone and roofed with lead (1235-49)', an unlocated Fountains Abbey establishment which was being run by conversi in 1279, and Byland's woolhouse at 'Thorpe', of which no trace remains (2). Canon Atkinson in his edition of the Rievaulx Cartulary, makes no identification, and the Victoria County History is scarcely more forthcoming (3).

Yet plausible archaeological evidence survives in situ, and apart from the farm-name Woolhouse Croft, 600 yards north of Laskill Grange Farm, there is a record of 1323 (4) concerning Edward II's visit, in the course of a hunting trip which ranged over the Moors from Pickering to Whorlton, to 'Glascowollehous': this can only be a royal clerk's despairing attempt to record 'Laskill Woolhouse'.

The structural remains first came to light in modern times in 1855. In the words of Whellan (5); 'Near Laskill Bridge were, in 1855, uncovered certain remains indicative of the site of an ancient Church or religious house. Some of the loose stones placed together form parts of columns three feet in diameter: and among the other debris turned up were two large stone crosses, an octangular font and its pillar, and flooring tiles of various shapes and colours'.

Some of these items cannot now be traced, and the 'octangular font' has been shown by the late Jack Weatherill (see Fig.10) to be in fact a vault-springer which would have rested on one of the columns, with the ribs of the ceiling vault rising eight-fold from it. During construction work in the Laskill farmyard in 1949-50, however, operations were overseen by Wilfred Crosland on behalf of the Yorkshire Archaeological Society and the Council for the Preservation of Rural England. Three pillar bases, one damaged, remain in situ and a number of other medieval worked stones, including one which has apparently been re-used as a cheese-press, stand free in the yard and farmhouse garden (Fig.11).

The owner's agent at the time of the 1949 operations referred to the building remains as those of the Prior's 'rest-house' or 'retreat' (6). But Mr. Weatherill, stonemason at Rievaulx Abbey, had already, before the last war, carefully listed and drawn most of the medieval stones (7), and recognised that the original building had had a vaulted lower storey, probably the actual woolhouse.

The remains have been re-examined and recorded in detail by the Royal Commission (8). Its findings, reviewed in the light of the Crosland and Weatherill notes, show that the structure consisted of a four-bay vaulted

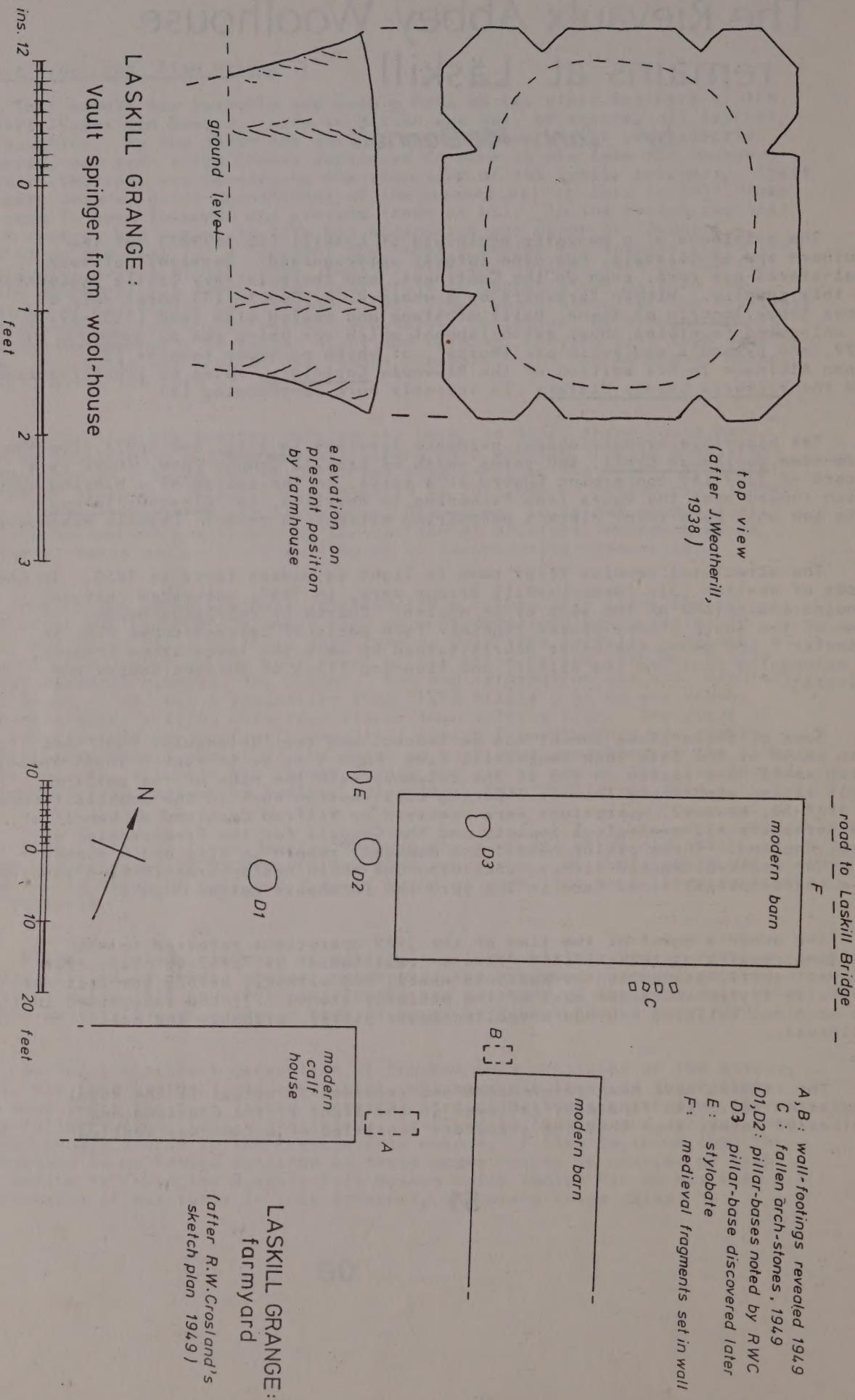


Fig. 10

Fig. 11

undercroft, 64 feet long, later extended by a further bay to 80 feet, and 21 feet wide. Water-leaf capital and corbel survivals suggest a late twelfth-century date. The vaulted undercroft probably had a timber-roofed upper floor providing accommodation in season for visiting wool-buyers, and no doubt for Edward II himself in the late summer of 1323. The RCHM suggests as analogous structures Burton Agnes Old Hall and the early manor house at Wharram Percy (9), though both these are rather smaller in plan than the Laskill building.

Footnotes:

- (1) The Cistercians: Studies in the Geography of Medieval England and Wales, Toronto, 1978, pp. 99-100.
- (2) The Byland site is in the township of Thorpe-le-Willows, 3 miles south-east of the Abbey, probably under the modern Thorpe Hall Farm. ('Willows' in the township name is a corruption of 'Woolhouse'.) The Fountains woolhouse was probably distinct from the great undercroft at the Abbey itself, though this was fairly certainly used as a woolstore at one time.
- (3) VCH (North Riding), i, 487
- (4) Cal. Pat. Rolls, 1321-24, pp337, 341, 375: relevant extracts printed in R. B. Turton (ed.), The Honour and Forest of Pickering, North Riding Record Series, New Series, iii, 225-7.
- (5) Whellan, History and Topography of ... York and the North Riding, Beverley, 1859, ii, 859.
- (6) Letters from A. Haymonds to (i) Miss G. MacDougall, area sec., CPRE, and (ii) R. W. Crosland, 1st Aug. 1950.
- (7) Ms memorandum formerly in the possession of R. W. Crosland, dated 2.7.1938. Copies are now held by the Royal Commission on Historical Monuments (England), White House, Clifton, York.
- (8) Report of 14 Oct. 1977 by D. W. Black and I. R. Pattison. A summary of their findings is in Houses of the North York Moors, RCHM (E), 1987, p.15.
- (9) Burton Agnes plan in M. E. Wood, Norman Domestic Architecture, 1976, p.55: Wharram Percy, excavation report and plan by Andrews and Milne in Wharram. A Study of Settlement in the Yorkshire Wolds, ed. J. G. Hurst, Soc. Med. Arch. monog. ser. 8, 1979.



*Harome 1916-20*



*Harome 1925-26*

*photographs by  
William Hayes*